

OCTOBER 12-13, 1995

3 tenors announce first world tour

LONDON (AP) — The three tenors — Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras — announced plans Wednesday to stage their first world tour. The three men have previously toured a few times, but scheduling problems have prevented them from doing so. The tour will include performances in the United States, Europe, Japan and Australia. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly. "We are all delighted to be reunited once more for this tour," the three men said in a joint statement. "We are looking forward to performing in five or six different cities," they said. The tour will include performances in Rome, the World Cup Soccer Finals and one in Los Angeles. Carreras has been diagnosed with cancer and the tour is expected to be his last.

Simpson to marry at Fiji resort — paper

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday that O.J. Simpson is planning to marry a woman at a resort in Fiji. The report said that Simpson is currently in Fiji and is planning to marry a woman named Lisa. The report also said that Simpson is planning to spend the rest of his life with Lisa.

Postman jailed for stealing birthday card cash

LONDON (AP) — A 40-year-old postman was jailed for three months for stealing a birthday card cash. The man, who was named as John Smith, was found guilty of stealing a birthday card cash from a woman. The woman had given the man a birthday card with a cash reward inside. The man had stolen the cash and was caught by the police.

Liz Taylor undergoes surgery

NEW YORK (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor underwent surgery to remove a tumor from her breast. The surgery was performed by a team of surgeons at a hospital in New York. Taylor is expected to make a full recovery and return to her normal life.

Islamic Jihad holds rally in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian group Islamic Jihad held a rally in self-ruled Gaza City on Friday calling for "death to Israel" and pledging to keep up the armed struggle. An official of the group, Muhammad Al Hindi, said Palestinian police had arrested at least four Jihad members from Jabalyah refugee camp the previous night and prevented 90 buses from being used to ferry supporters to the rally. "We promise to God and our people that we will not go back on our choice which states there is no place for the Zionist entity in Palestine," a Jihad leader, Sheikh Abdallah Shami, told a crowd of around 1,500 people. The crowd chanted "Allahu Akbar" ("Death to Israel") and "Death to America." Israeli and U.S. flags were trampled before being set ablaze at the rally, held to commemorate the death of six Jihad fighters in a clash with Israeli troops on Oct. 6, 1987, a date the group marks as the start of the intifada. "We are called upon now, more than ever, to carry on with the Jihad (holy war). We can not stop," said the group's leader, Fathi Shakkai, who lives in Damascus, in a message read out at the rally.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية غير الحزبية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراية

Iraqi defectors sue Israel for freedom

TEL AVIV (AP) — Thirty Iraqi citizens and one Iranian sued the State of Israel for violating their freedom after they defected to Israel requesting political asylum and have been held in prisons ever since, a published report said Friday. The suit, filed Thursday at the Tel Aviv district court against the state and the ministry of interior, is demanding monetary compensation of 6,134,700 shekels (\$2,045,233), according to the daily Davar newspaper. Six of the plaintiffs have been labelled by Israeli authorities as posing a danger to the State of Israel and have claim they have been tortured by their Israeli interrogators, Davar said. The lawsuit said that all the plaintiffs left their countries of origin because they opposed the life imposed upon them under the regimes of their countries and requested political asylum in Israel. But they have been imprisoned in Israel and ordered deported, Davar said. The longest detention has lasted since Oct. 4, 1992, and the most recent since May, 1994, the report said.

Israel, PLO try to settle pullout crisis

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL AND the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are trying to settle a crisis over PLO fears that Israel is delaying an army pullout from West Bank cities it agreed to leave under a deal signed in Washington last month.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat plan to meet in Gaza on Sunday to try to nail down a troop withdrawal timetable, Arafat aide Nabil Abul Rdainah said on Friday.

"The meeting will discuss the timing for redeployment and discuss the subject of the Palestinian women prisoners," Mr. Abul Rdainah said.

Mr. Arafat, angry at what he sees as Israel's delays in starting the pull out, on Thursday wrote to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, expressing concern that Israel would not complete the overall redeployment on time.

The PLO also told Israel it would reconsider its participation in a conference on regional development in Amman this month unless the withdrawal dispute was resolved.

Mr. Rabin has vowed that Israel will stick to the dates for its army pull out of West Bank towns once a timetable is agreed with the



An Israeli policeman struggles with a sheep during a right-wing protest in Jerusalem in support of Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank who are waging a bitter campaign against Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank (AFP photo)

Turkey warns Syria on Kurdish rebels

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey demanded Syria block Kurdish rebels from staging cross-border attacks from Syrian bases, the foreign minister said, Kurdish rebels, fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey, often strike from bases in Syria, Iraq and Iran. The Kurdish conflict has claimed more than 20,000 lives since 1984. The foreign ministry said there were 10 serious attacks by guerrillas crossing the Syrian border since February. Each time the rebels were able to escape back to Syria, it added.

Egyptian painter sues Israel

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian painter has begun a legal action demanding \$5 million in damages and the return of 24 of his works seized by the Israeli army during the 1967 Middle East war, he said Friday. Mustafa Bakir said the works, all depicting the life of the bedouins of the Sinai, were seized when Israeli troops occupied the peninsula in 1967. "An Israeli intelligence officer named Abu Zuhair burst into my house at Al Arish in the summer of 1967. When he didn't find me, he took away 24 of my paintings in military vehicles," Mr. Bakir told AFP. "There are several witnesses who are still living and ready to turn up in court. The Israeli forces wanted to take revenge because of my services to the Egyptian army during the occupation," said the painter, who added that he fled Al Arish for Jordan and then Cairo three months after the June 1967 war. Mr. Bakir said Israel's decision last year to return hundreds of antiques taken from the Sinai during the 1967-82 occupation had prompted him to go to court.

Aldeed suffers another setback

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Warlord Muhammad Farah Aideed came under increasing pressure Friday as his "interior minister," Mohammad Qanyare Afrah, lost his power base as leader of the main faction of the powerful Mursade clan.

Bosnia fronts mostly quite despite battle in northwest

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnia's most hopeful ceasefire to date has quieted almost all battlefields, but the government insisted Serbs must do more to lift the siege of Sarajevo before peace talks can start.

After weeks of heavy fighting, U.N. officials deemed any ceasefire violations insignificant, even as the government and rebel Serbs accused each other of new attacks in the bitterly contested northwest.

Rival military leaders sniped at each other through the media and threatened retaliation. But the warring parties sat down in Sarajevo under U.N. auspices to discuss how to firm up the truce.

With Washington leading the peace drive, this ceasefire is given more chance than countless previous truces.

"So far so good," Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told the Associated Press. "It won't be a clear-cut situation. It never is. It is not easy to stop the war machine, but I think it will go well."

"The ceasefire has more chance than previous ones, because the readiness (for it) is greater than before," said Momcilo Krajisnik, a Serb leader.

U.S. negotiators hope to use the two-month truce that began early Thursday for talks leading to an international peace conference in Paris.

As the sides prepare for peace talks, due Oct. 31 in the United States, they also laid out demands they want fulfilled.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Mohammad Sacirbey said a road to the eastern enclave of Gorazde must be opened, and a road out of besieged Sarajevo.

A U.N. aid convoy tried to

reach Gorazde from Sarajevo Thursday on the main road through Serb-held territory. The convoy soon had to turn back because of mines, which U.N. engineers must clear "centimetre by centimetre," said French Colonel Patrick Mace.

Serb soldiers at a checkpoint on the road indicated they would not clear it — a condition of the ceasefire agreement.

Mr. Silajdzic acknowledged it could take time for the road to be secured, but hoped this is done "in the shortest time possible," so besieged Gorazde could receive regular supplies.

Restoration of gas and electricity to Sarajevo was vital for the truce. Access to Gorazde was part of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement, but an open road

Sources here said the situation at the Kabul frontline was stable, but it was not yet clear who controls Rishkor.

The Taliban have overrun Rishkor, about 12 kilometres from the centre of Kabul, on Wednesday after a series of advances that included the capture of Chabarsayab, 25 kilometres south of the city.

There were no details on Friday about any fighting at Chabarsayab, which served as former headquarters of Muslim fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction.

Abdullah said Mr. Rabbani's top commander and defence minister, Ahmad Shah Massoud, (see page 2), himself directed the overnight attack from the Television Tower hills in southern Kabul to prevent the Taliban penetration into the city.

Unconfirmed reports from the front line said the government, faced with an onslaught of Taliban, was forced to withdraw from several fortified positions.

Among the wounded in Friday's fighting were two journalists working for the French news service, Agence France-Presse.

AFP Kabul correspondent

Baghdad rejects controlled oil sales, top official affirms

TOKYO (R) — Iraq will not sell its oil under a U.N. sanctions exception, or any other kind of international supervision, a senior Iraqi oil official said on Friday.

"It is not because of the U.N. supervision. Any kind of supervision is an interference with Iraq's sovereignty," Fadhil Abadi, general secretary of Iraq's National Energy Committee, told Reuters in an interview.

Iraq has been banned by U.N. order from world oil markets since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, starving Baghdad of foreign exchange. A U.N. resolution allows Iraq a once-off oil sale, worth \$2 billion, under U.N. supervision, to pay for imports of food, medicine and other essential goods.

Iraq has been resisting the offer.

"No country will accept another country's offer to sell their oil to buy (materials for) our people's needs and distribution," (Continued on page 7)

No review of Iraq sanctions before one year, U.S. says

U.S. OFFICIALS said at the U.N. on Friday that after hearing the latest report on Iraqi arms stockpiles, a review of sanctions keeping Baghdad's oil off world markets could not take place before at least one year.

"It's certainly not weeks or months," a spokesman for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright said. "It is difficult to imagine Iraq being able to establish its credibility in a year."

Ms. Albright, speaking to journalists, called the report released Wednesday "stunning" and said it showed that Iraq "cheated and lied more than anybody suspected."

The report on Iraqi disarmament by the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) investigating Iraqi compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions following the Gulf war in 1990 found Baghdad "misleading" it about secret nuclear, biological and chemical weapons it amassed before the war.

Ms. Albright said the new information has forced a complete reevaluation of UNSCOM procedures to monitor Iraqi disarmament, since it was not able to detect the weapons programme without Kamel's defection.

"What has to happen is that the commission has to analyse what seems to be a million pages of information, and we have to make sure the monitoring system ... is upgraded," Ms. Albright said, adding that it will take a lot of time.

King reaffirms commitment to seeking comprehensive peace in Middle East

Greek Orthodox Church honours King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan for their efforts for peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein reaffirmed that he would spare no effort to bring about a just, comprehensive and lasting peace to the Middle East so that the peoples of the region can live in an atmosphere marked by stability and progress.

He was speaking at a meeting at the Royal Court with Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem Deodoros I, who presented the King with "Golden Necklace" Peace Prize in recognition of his efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

King Hussein voiced his appreciation to the Greek Orthodox Church for the award, the highest Greek Orthodox patriarchate's medal.

Patriarch Deodoros also presented His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with a similar prize in recognition of his peace efforts and his drive to achieve development to the peoples of the region.

Before presenting the awards the patriarch delivered an address reaffirming his and his constituency's



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Thursday receive Greek Orthodox Patriarch Deodoros I (Petra photo)

Kabul says Taliban assault halted

KABUL (Agencies) — A counter-offensive by the presidential forces has halted the Taliban militia's advance towards the Afghan capital and the city centre was calm Friday.

Officials here said troops loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani in a counter-attack the previous night dislodged the Taliban militia from the southern fringes of Kabul.

Rabbani forces unleashed salvos of long-range rockets at Taliban positions during the night, Afghan government spokesman Abdullah said. The fighting subsided before dawn. Residents said that no more explosions were heard early Friday.

Abdullah described the counter-attack as a great success. The Taliban have been pushed back from the Khairabad Hills, which dominate the southern flank of Kabul, he said, claiming that presidential forces also recaptured Rishkor, where a major military base is located.

Sources here said the situation at the Kabul frontline was stable, but it was not yet clear who controls Rishkor.

The Taliban have overrun Rishkor, about 12 kilometres from the centre of Kabul, on Wednesday after a series of advances that included the capture of Chabarsayab, 25 kilometres south of the city.

There were no details on Friday about any fighting at Chabarsayab, which served as former headquarters of Muslim fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction.

Abdullah said Mr. Rabbani's top commander and defence minister, Ahmad Shah Massoud, (see page 2), himself directed the overnight attack from the Television Tower hills in southern Kabul to prevent the Taliban penetration into the city.

Unconfirmed reports from the front line said the government, faced with an onslaught of Taliban, was forced to withdraw from several fortified positions.

Among the wounded in Friday's fighting were two journalists working for the French news service, Agence France-Presse.

AFP Kabul correspondent

Hizbollah kills 3 soldiers; Israel pins blame on Syria

Combined agency dispatches

LEBANESE FIGHTERS killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded six others in a South Lebanon ambush which the Jewish state blamed on Syria and the deadlock in their peace process on Friday.

Lebanese and Israeli sources said Iranian-backed Hizbollah were behind the bloodiest ambush in South Lebanon this year.

Lebanese security sources said the guerrillas detonated a remote-controlled bomb as the Israelis were travelling in three unmarked civilian vehicles at 9:15 p.m. (1915 GMT) Thursday.

The attack occurred on a road near the village of Aishiyeh in the central sector of an Israeli-occupied border enclave, known as the "security zone."

In Israel, an army spokesman confirmed the casualties.

The attack threatened to

aggravate hostilities in the south amid signs peace negotiations between Israel and Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, were seriously deadlocked.

The U.S. State Department announced Thursday that Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is due in Jordan later this month for an economic conference, had no plans for a new diplomatic shuttle between Syria and Israel (see page 2).

The Lebanese security sources, speaking in the Israeli-held enclave on condition of anonymity, said among the Israeli fatalities was an officer. At least two of the wounded were in critical condition.

The victims were evacuated by helicopter to hospital in northern Israel.

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attack.

A communiqué by Hizbollah said the ambushers raked the Israeli patrol with machine gunfire and

shoulder-fired rocket-propelled grenades just after the roadside bomb went off.

The Israelis responded with massive barrages of howitzer and tank fire on villages opposite the ambush scene while helicopter gunships strafed suspected guerrilla infiltration trails under parachute flares.

Lebanese police in the southern market town of Nabatiyeh said they had no immediate word on casualties from the nightlong bombardment, which touched off several hush fires.

The ambush was the worst against Israeli forces in the south this year. On June 18, three Israeli soldiers were killed and three injured in a guerrilla attack in the south.

The Israelis have been using unmarked vehicles in their movements to and from front line outposts in the south to avoid detection by the guerrillas. Most of their

Expellee crisis to be solved in week or two, Musa says

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi will suspend a decision ordering 30,000 Palestinians to leave his country, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said on Friday.

Mr. Musa also told reporters that hundreds of Palestinians who are stranded in a desert camp between the Libyan-Egyptian border would return to their homes in Libya or go to the self-rule area of Gaza within the next two weeks.

In August, Colonel Qadhafi ordered 30,000 Palestinians in his country to leave and return to Palestinian self-ruled areas to expose what he calls the sham peace between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

"Colonel Muammar Qadhafi will suspend a decree to deport 30,000 Palestinians who live in Libya. The Palestinian deportees will vacate the camp within a short period that will not exceed a week or two," Mr. Musa said.

The Egyptian minister met Col. Qadhafi in Tripoli last Friday to discuss the fate of the Palestinians.

About 100 expelled Palestinians will leave the tents on the border either to return to their homes in

Libya or to go to the Gaza Strip via Egypt," Mr. Musa said.

"Israel had shown an understanding for the need to solve the problem," he added.

An official at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said that "Palestinians who have some family living in Gaza will be able to rejoin them, while others will be able to return to their homes in Libya."

Neither Mr. Musa nor the foreign ministry mentioned the fate of those Palestinians who want to travel to the occupied West Bank. So far Egypt has banned those without the necessary permits from crossing its territory for Gaza or the West Bank.

Libya has fired hundreds of Palestinian expatriates from their jobs and confiscated their houses, effectively expelling them. About 900 Palestinians are stranded at a makeshift Libyan-run camp on the border with Egypt, waiting to return to PLO-ruled Gaza and Jericho, where entry is controlled by Israel.

An official source at the Egyptian-Libyan border said on Thursday Col. Qadhafi would visit Egypt on Friday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the deported Palestinians.

But an official at the Libyan representative office in Cairo said Col. Qadhafi was unlikely to visit Cairo within the next 48 hours because he was busy with the president of the Central African Republic who is in Tripoli on an official visit.

Palestinians in the border camp said that food supplies which had been arriving daily were halted on Wednesday.

But the Cairo Foreign Ministry said the decision was "not aiming at harming them" but was a good sign that they will soon be repatriated.

Since last Saturday the Libyans had started taking back blankets and sheets they had given, another camp dweller said, adding: "We are sleeping on cardboard now."

The Palestinians also said medical services provided by Tripoli were inadequate. They said a three-year-old child, Mohammad Ali Ibrahim, was taken Thursday to hospital in the Egyptian town of Salloum suffering from diarrhoea.

Egyptian border police confirmed the report, saying there were no medicines in two hospital tents supplied by Libya. They said the child, who had gone to hospital with his mother, would be returned to the camp when he was better.

Western powers seek to deprive Libya of seat in Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Unless African states soon come up with a North African substitute for Libya's candidacy for a Security Council seat, the council could be without an Arab member in 1996 for the first time in nearly 30 years, Western diplomats said on Thursday.

The United States, Britain and France have mounted a major campaign, both in world capitals and at the United Nations, to prevent Libya from being elected to a two-year council term. They say it would be unconscionable for a country under U.N. sanctions to have a seat on the prestigious 15-member body responsible for international peace and security.

The 185-nation General Assembly is due to hold a secret ballot Nov. 8 to fill five forthcoming vacancies on the council, beginning Jan. 1, 1996.

Among the countries leaving the council on Dec. 31 is Oman, its only current Arab member. The last time the council had no Arab member was in 1967.

Libya, which has so far had only one term on the council, in 1976-77, has been endorsed by the African group for a seat which, under a system of rotation, is to be filled by a North African country.

Sanctions were first imposed on Libya in 1992 because of its failure to surrender for trial in Britain or the United States two alleged in-

telligence agents indicted in the December 1988 mid-air bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

Libya was also punished for failing to cooperate with a French investigation into the Sept. 1989 bombing of UTA Flight 772 over Niger in which all 171 aboard were killed.

The Western powers have been trying to get the African group to prevail on Libya to withdraw its candidacy in favour of another North African state, most likely Egypt, Tunisia or Morocco.

They say they are confident of enough votes to prevent Libya from obtaining the two-thirds majority of assembly votes needed to win election.

If a North African state other than Libya fails to stand as a candidate, Western diplomats say the assembly is likely to elect a country from another region of Africa. This would leave the council without an Arab member, at least until another five seats come up for election towards the end of 1996.

London and Washington have rejected the proposal, saying it does not satisfy the Security Council's requirements.

Alexandria Library needs \$100m to revive its past

ALEXANDRIA (AFP) — When archaeologists proposed to rebuild the library of Alexandria has finally begun after a series of disputes and delays, but \$100 million is still needed before the ancient wonder can be fully revived.

"I appeal for contributions not only from nations but from non-governmental organisations and individuals, so that this becomes truly an international project," said Mohamed Zahran, who heads the library project.

The General Organisation for the Alexandria Library (GOAL), which Mr. Zahran directs, has received only 70 million of a total of \$170 million in pledges, he said.

Presidents, kings and princes promised the funds in 1990 at an elaborate ceremony in the southern Egyptian city of Aswan after UNESCO called for international assistance to rebuild the ancient library destroyed 1,600 years ago.

Egypt has provided a four-hectare site for the project near the Mediterranean coast at Alexandria and finances GOAL to the tune of \$11 million a year, with an overall contribution estimated at \$183 million.

But the international funds have been slow in arriving and the project has been held up. The library, meant to be among the 20 largest in the world, was to have opened last July.

But construction of the foundations did not begin until mid-May and still continues. A new inaugural date has been set for 1998.

A first attempt to begin construction in 1993 blocked

when archaeologists proposed to rebuild the library of Alexandria has finally begun after a series of disputes and delays, but \$100 million is still needed before the ancient wonder can be fully revived.

A subsequent dig uncovered a Greco-Roman road, remains of a palace garden and two spectacular mosaics, all of which "will be put in the library's museum," Mr. Zahran said.

A quarter of the site still has not been explored, but "everything that should be found has been," Mr. Zahran said. "Work can now continue 24 hours a day."

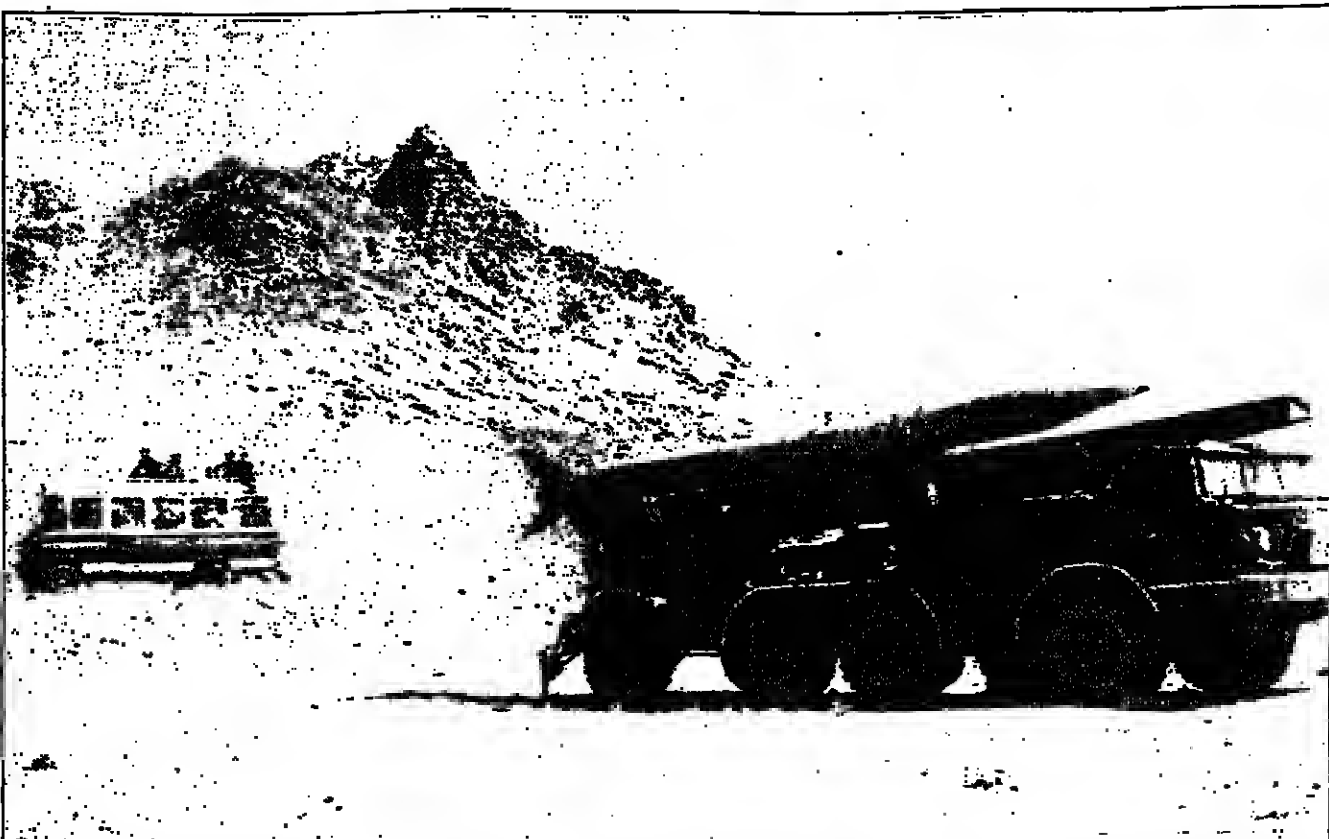
The ancient library, the first big public library in history, held 700,000 volumes and received a copy of every manuscript that entered Egypt.

It was damaged during Julius Caesar's siege of the Mediterranean city in 48 B.C., then burned to the ground by the fanatical Christian patriarch Theophile in the fourth century.

The new library is to hold 200,000 volumes when it is opened, 100,000 of which have already been obtained.

Its design, by a Norwegian architect, was chosen through an international competition in 1989 and consists of a cylinder 160 metres across tilted towards the sea to represent the rising sun and a reborn civilisation.

"The Alexandria Library should be as modern in 1998 as its predecessor was in its time," said Jacqueline Leroy, a French adviser to the project who worked on the Pompidou Centre and the Institute of the Arab World in Paris.



BATTLE FOR KABUL: An Afghan passenger bus drives past a Russian-made Luna rocket launcher manned by forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani north of Kabul. The Kabul government said Friday Rabbani forces had launched a counter-offensive against an assault on the capital by the Taliban militia (see page one) (AFP photo)

Christopher excludes visits to Israel and Syria this time

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher will lead the U.S. delegation to the Amman economic summit, making opening remarks there and conducting bilateral meetings before returning to the United States to participate in the recently scheduled Bosnian proximity talks, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Thursday.

The Amman conference, the spokesman said, is part of the U.S. strategy to support the Middle East peace process "and specifically the economic dimension" of that process. The United States hopes "very much," he said, "that this particular conference will encourage regional economic cooperation and development and that it will demonstrate a fundamental lesson... that peace pays" and that the future of all the peoples of the Middle East "is best secured through economic development... (and) public and private economic cooperation."

Mr. Burns also expressed the U.S. hope that American business "will play a large role" in the conference and an even larger role in the future, in terms of investment in the Middle East.

Mr. Christopher will depart Washington on Oct. 28 for Jordan, arriving in time for the conference's opening ceremony on Oct. 29. He will also hold bilateral consultations later that day, according to the spokesman. The secretary will devote much of his time to the important economic aspects of the Middle East peace process. Mr. Burns said, and he is also expected to meet with King Hussein.

Mr. Christopher returns from Amman to Washington on Oct. 30 and will travel to the as yet unidentified east coast location of the Bosnia proximity talks to participate in their opening. If it weren't for those talks, Mr. Burns said, the secretary would have made a broader, longer swing through the Middle East.

The spokesman noted that peace in Bosnia and the Middle East are "among the

highest priorities" of the American people and the Clinton administration, and the secretary feels it is very important to have a presence in "both places and accomplish what we hope will be progress" in both.

While acknowledging that the Middle East peace process is currently on a "very tough track" and that existing problems are "extremely difficult," Mr. Burns said Secretary of State Christopher remains determined that the United States will play "an aggressive role in helping Syria and Israel find peace in the future" and is ready to return to the region if there is any prospect for affecting the outcome.

The spokesman said the secretary will not, however, be travelling to Middle Eastern cities other than Amman during his October trip to the region. Given the upcoming Bosnian proximity talks, which open Oct. 31, Mr. Burns said it is not possible for Mr. Christopher to make an extended visit to the region. He also said he does not expect the Amman visit to develop into a mini-summit on the Middle East peace process.

While acknowledging that the progress achieved during the last set of talks in Damascus and Jerusalem in June was not as substantial as the U.S. had hoped, Mr. Burns said the U.S. believes it is worth trying to develop some momentum and that "ultimately" Syria and Israel can have "comparable success" to that of the Israelis and Palestinians. "It is certainly not a time for the United States to give up," he stressed, because the entire effort is part of "a long-range process."

Although U.S. participation and support can make a difference in that process, the spokesman suggested that no "imminent progress" or "dramatic breakthroughs" are expected which would necessitate the secretary's presence in any other Middle Eastern capitals anytime soon.

Asked about Syria's earlier commitment to military-to-

military talks and the role of such talks in the evolving process, the spokesman said such military discussions would be "useful" and are probably, "necessary, ultimately, for a resolution" of problems related to the Golan Heights and other Syrian-Israeli disputes.

Mr. Burns acknowledged that the remaining issues are "difficult" because they affect the future security of Israel and Syria. At the same time, he noted that personalities are also a factor in the peace process equation. "I don't think there is an intrinsic problem on the personality side," he explained, "but I think that the problems are difficult for historical reasons and for reasons having to do with, perhaps, differing conceptions of the national security interests of both countries."

Asked by a reporter about the window of opportunity for making progress on the remaining difficult peace process issues, Mr. Burns said that while the window remains open, "there will come a time in 1996" when both Israel and the U.S. will enter into long political election campaigns which will distract them and make it difficult to spend as much time as in the past on "time consuming problems" like the Middle East process. With that in mind, the spokesman expressed the hope that Israel and Syria will do their "very best" in the coming months to make progress.

Asked about reports that some Palestinians are threatening to boycott the Amman economic summit if the Israelis do not fully implement the West Bank accords, Mr. Burns said he had heard nothing on the subject "through official channels."

The United States believes there is "every reason" for the economic summit to be successful, he said, given the stake that both the Israelis and the Palestinians, as well as others, have in it. Implementation of the accords has to be worked out by the two sides, the spokesman said, "and we have every reason to think that they will work out their problems."

Iraqi defector says he escaped attacks

LONDON (AP) — An Iraqi diplomat who was chief of protocol at Saddam Hussein's presidential palace said Thursday he fled the country after two assassination attempts against him.

Hussein Rashid Hassan appeared at a London news conference wearing a false beard and dark glasses because he said he feared for his life.

He refused to answer a number of key questions, saying he was worried about family members in Iraq.

Mr. Hassan said he was "directly connected" to President Saddam's son-in-law, Hussein Kamel, who was general director of special security for the president's office while he was chief of protocol.

Hussein Kamel and his brother defected on Aug. 8 with their wives, both daughters of President Saddam, and are now living in Jordan. The men have said they plan to join the opposition and seek President Saddam's overthrow.

Mr. Hassan's defection was announced Tuesday by the London-based Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq. It said he had joined the exiled opposition group which is trying to topple President Saddam.

While working as chief of protocol, Mr. Hassan said, "I was detained and interrogated by several security agencies because of allegations made about me. After that there were two attempts to assassinate me."

He did not give any details or dates but the Associated Press learned that he was arrested in 1990. It was clear from the news conference that he left Iraq at least a year ago and had been living in Jordan before coming to London on Sept. 29.

Mr. Hassan told the news conference that President Saddam retains control over all military matters.

U.S. to work on trade status for Palestinians

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The U.S. Trade Representative, Mickey Kantor, will arrive in Israel Oct. 16 on his first official visit to the country.

Speaking briefly to reporters Thursday, Mr. Kantor said that the purpose of his trip was to "strengthen ties" with Israel, which has had a free trade agreement with the United States for the past 10 years.

While there, Mr. Kantor will also discuss the administration's offer to allow Palestinian imports from Gaza and the West Bank to enter the United States without tariffs. The offer cannot be put into effect, however, until it is authorised by the U.S. Congress.

The legislation which would do this is included in a larger, "fast track" bill which would give the administration the authority to negotiate future trade agreements without undue congressional intervention. President Clinton has threatened to veto the Republican-controlled Con-

gress' version of the bill, however, and the two sides are currently negotiating their differences "in good faith," Mr. Kantor said.

If and when the authorisation is made, Mr. Kantor said he expects the Palestinians to begin exporting textiles and agricultural goods to the United States, tariff-free.

The idea to permit the free trade in Palestinian goods, Mr. Kantor said, came from Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and was strongly backed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as a way of bolstering Israeli security as well as helping Gaza and the West Bank.

In return, the Palestinians have agreed to work towards ending the Arab League boycott of Israel, Mr. Kantor said.

Mr. Kantor said that he would also be discussing Israeli tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods during the four days he is in the country. "Those tariffs should be removed," he stated.

Afghan hero has his back to wall

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghanistan's former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood, a hero of the anti-Soviet war and overall commander of forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani, is risking his all in ongoing battles with the Taliban movement.

He faces the twin challenges of advances by the Taliban militia and treason within his own ranks.

If he loses Kabul, he loses everything," said an Afghan intellectual, adding, "Kabul is the throne or the coffin."

Defence Ministry spokesman Abdullah told AFP that Mr. Masood was "personally in overall command" of the counter-offensive launched on the Taliban late Thursday, two days after the movement made good its pledge to attack Kabul to overthrow President Rabbani.

Raised from the dust of the Panjshir valley, to the north of Kabul, from where he waged the struggle against a half dozen Soviet offensives, Mr. Masood now risks returning there, reduced to being just one among numerous commanders.

The Taliban, who have sworn to capture Kabul and drive out all the rival factions, are in no mood to give him any quarter.

"If the Taliban are ready to let Rabbani go, they are more than willing to hang Masood," said a representative of a humanitarian organisation working in Afghanistan.

Many observers believe that a Taliban victory in Kabul would mean open season on the Panjshiris who took over Kabul after the fall of the communists in April 1992.

The Panjshiris, who form the core of Masood's troops, can therefore be expected to wage a desperate battle to keep their hold on the capital which they have made home for themselves and their families.

Although Mr. Masood was forced to cede to the Taliban

two strategically important bastions south of Kabul, Charasayab and Riskhor, he is not lacking in the means to put up a fight.

Diplomats say he has some 12,000 battle-hardened troops, a huge quantity of military hardware inherited from the communist regime and still intact defence lines dating back to the days of president Najibullah.

"The mujahideen have never succeeded in taking Kabul by force," said a diplomat. He recalled that even the communist regime did not suffer a military defeat but collapsed under the weight of betrayals and changes of alliances.

This same risk awaits Mr. Masood, reportedly a brilliant military strategist but a poor politician.

Many Afghans especially the Pashtuns who make up the majority, accuse Mr. Masood of having concentrated power among members of his own ethnic Tajik group, especially the Panjshiris.

All the men who hold key posts in Kabul, the "eminent grise" Abdul Rahman, security chief General Fahim, de facto defence minister Yunus Qarooni and spokesman Abdullah are all Tajiks loyal to Mr. Masood.

Other ethnic groups were marginalised and alienated from circles of power. Hence their resentment.

"There is a very high risk of betrayal at present," in the coalition controlling Kabul, said a diplomat specialising in Afghan affairs.

Leaders in Kabul are aware that the fall of Charasayab and Riskhor on Tuesday and Wednesday could not have occurred without some commanders giving away their positions to the attacking Taliban in exchange for considerations, a practice considered widespread in the internecine Afghan battles.

"Masood did not know how to trust," his enemies say, adding, "now he will sow what he has reaped."

Jordan Times
Tel: 699634

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Back to the Future
14:30 Harry and the Hendersons
15:00 Blue Heelers
15:45 Only in Hollywood
16:10 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme — Les Mondes Engloutis
17:30 L'Histoire Du Cinque
18:00 Drama Series — Operation Open
19:00 Magazine — Paul Pas Revier
19:30 New Headlines
19:35 Major Dad
20:00 First Flights
20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 News in English
22:25 Film: "The Fifteen Streets"
23:50 The Tin Flute

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swaffish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 628266
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate weather conditions will prevail becoming cold at night with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 11 / 25
Aqaba 20 / 35
Deserts 10 / 28
Jordan Valley 20 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 25, Aqaba 30 Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi 894788
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 777797
Dr. Awni Al Hawaridob 832350
Dr. Khalil Al Tushuq 894788
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637025
Naioukh pharmacy 626772
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shindasi pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili 273099
Alquds pharmacy (—)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Public Security Department 893390
Traffic Police 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Central Amman Municipality 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Public Security Department 630321
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/3/2
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileb Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiciati 664171/4
Shmiciati Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 666277/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 771013
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Army, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 863199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/900500
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/985732
Al Hilman Modern Hospital 09/990990
IRBID:
Procces Basma Hospital 02/225555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/272275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 02/247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:45 Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:45 New Delhi (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Beirut (RJ)
09:35 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Colombo (RJ)
14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:05 Cairo (RJ)
16:15 London, Berlin (RJ)
22:10 Madrid (add) (RJ)
23:15 Paris (add) (RJ)
19:40 Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
11:00 Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)
11:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)
16:10 Damascus (AZ)
12:40 Sharjah, Doha (GF)
16:10 Rome (AZ)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
19:35 Larnaca (CY)
19:35 Cairo (OS)
20:40 Beirut (ME)
21:20 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:20 Larnaca (CY)
21:20 Amsterdam (KL)
23:30 London, Damascus (BA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Beirut (ME)
11:00 Rome (AZ)
13:10 Vienna (OS)
13:30 Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
19:15 Dubai (EK)
20:25 Cairo (MS)
21:20 Larnaca (CY)
22:50 Damascus, Paris (AF)
06:20 Amsterdam (KL)
06:50 London (BA)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700 / 500
Banana 680
Banana (Makassar) 620
Cabbage 210 / 150
Carrot 330/230
Cauliflower 340/180
Cucumbers (large) 200 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 350 / 250
Eggplant 300 / 200
Garlic 700/500
Grape 680/480
Guava 500/400
Lemon 240/180
Marrow (large) 200 / 150
Marrow (small) 340 / 240
Okra 900 / 700
Olives (green) 230 / 120
Onion (dry) 180 / 100
Pepper (hot) 180 / 100
Pepper (sweet) 240 / 160
Pomegranate 340/260
Potato 300 / 200
Spinach 320/200
String Beans 800 / 650
Tomato 110/70

version of the bill, however, and the two sides are currently negotiating differences in good faith, Mr. Kantor said. If and when the authorisation is made, Mr. Kantor expects the Palestinians to export textiles and agricultural goods to the United States tariff-free. The idea to permit the free trade in Palestinian goods, each Foreign Minister Shalev said, came from an idea by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as a way of helping Israeli security and the economy.

In return, the Palestinians have agreed to work towards ending the Arab League boycott of Israel, Mr. Kantor said.

Mr. Kantor said that he would also be discussing tariff reductions on U.S. agricultural goods during the talks he is in the country. These tariffs should be reduced, he stated.

pro has o wall

we strategically important positions south of Kababiyah and Rishday, but lacking in the means to put up a fight.

Diplomats say he has 12,000 battle-hardened fighters, a large quantity of military hardware, and from the communist regime, and will not let the day's president, Nasser, be the one to sign the peace treaty.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

This comes as the Syrian army is in the Golan Heights and the Israeli army is in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

At the same time, the Syrian army is in the Golan Heights and the Israeli army is in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

All this is a result of the Syrian army being in the Golan Heights and the Israeli army being in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights. The situation in the north is also tense, with the Israeli army in the Golan Heights and the Syrian army in the Golan Heights.

Home News



Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday chairs a meeting of the Higher National Committee of the Jerash Festival at Al-Ma'wa Palace to review and critique this summer's cultural and artistic performance, exhibitions and activities as well as to plan for the festival's special 15th anniversary programme next year. During their discussion, the members stressed the importance of the festival in developing and promoting the country's cultural life and in enhancing and contributing to a more balanced regional and international understanding of Jordan and of Arab and Islamic culture. The festival, which has proven to be one of the most successful annual meetings of Arabs and Jordanians, promotes international cross-cultural exchange and tourism. According to a Royal Court statement, Queen Noor expressed her pride in the festival's "unique example of inter-sectoral cooperation ranging from student volunteers to substantial participation and support from private and public organisations" (photo by Crystal)



Deputising for her Majesty Queen Noor, Princess Rania Abdullah Friday joins some 4,000 marchers, along with Princess Ghida Talal and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid to her right and Mrs. Abdul Salam Majali to her left, in a march which kicked off from the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) premises in Mecca street to the Ahli Club near the 8th Circle. The march is the culmination of week-long activities carried out by the CPF to mark the National Day for CP, which fell on Oct. 5. The march aimed to raise funds to support the CPF projects throughout the Kingdom. Princess Rania also toured the CPF facilities and was briefed on its establishment and objectives by the CPF President Fakhri Bilbeisi. (Petra Photo)

Excessive bureaucracy, overstaffing and unqualified civil servants still a problem, says Mohieddin Toq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Administrative Development Mohieddin Toq said despite the repeated attempts by Jordan to tackle administrative problems, the Kingdom was still facing problems such as excessive bureaucracy, lack of training of administrative staff, overstaffed departments as well as unqualified civil servants.

In an interview with Al Aswaq Jordan daily, Dr. Toq said Jordan has been trying to tackle such problems since 1984 when, under His Majesty King Hussein's directives, the Royal Commission on Administrative Development was set up. He said the commission managed in 1988 to draft the civil service system.

He added that in 1994, the Royal Commission on Reform and Modernisation was set up to address administrative illnesses facing the government.

The minister noted that by the end of 1994, a regulation was issued creating the Ministry of Administrative Development and that the ministry came into being by the beginning of 1995.

He said the ministry cannot on its own tackle administrative problems and that it needs the cooperation of all the ministries and departments. He added

fighting bureaucracy. He said a citizen can at the present time obtain a passport within hours instead of several days as was the case before the administrative development process carried out by the department.

He also commended the experience of the Jordan Electricity Authority, which he described as a pioneering institution offering services to a large number of Arab and Third World countries.

He said as of next year, new civil servants will, according to a new administrative plan, have to enroll in training programme, and he stressed that promotion in government departments will be linked to the employees' success in such programmes.

This plan, he said, entails offering training to the 135,000 civil servants, which might take years.

The minister said personnel in the ministries of education and health constitute 70 per cent of civil servants, adding that government employees in Jordan constitute 45 per cent of the Kingdom's workforce, including personnel of the Armed Forces, the public security, civil defence and general intelligence departments.

Siemens to install JD26m digital telephone exchange around Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has signed an agreement with Siemens, the German electronic firm, to install modern digital telephone exchanges in several regions in Jordan at a cost of JD 26 million, according to an announcement by the TCC Friday.

Under the terms of the agreement, signed by TCC Director General Walid Dweik and Siemens Manager Herman Frans, the company will install and start the operations of the exchanges within two years.

The TCC announcement said that Siemens will install 22 exchanges which would create a total of 298 circuits in several regions.

The statement said the project, to be implemented in stages, entails setting up

the exchanges in the Amman, Irbid, Salt, Ajloun, Zarqa, Jerash, Karak, Tafleh and Mafraq governorates.

Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarsaireh, who attended the signing ceremony, was quoted last month as saying that the ministry plans to modernise the telecommunications sector within the framework of an overall national programme.

He had said that the telecommunications sector needed to undertake several projects until the year 2008 at the estimated value of \$1.067 billion.

Mr Sarsaireh said some of the projects under consideration by the ministry would be submitted to foreign investors at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference later this month.



Telecommunications Corporation Director General Walid Dweik and Siemens Manager Herman Frans Thursday evening exchange copies of an agreement they signed for the installation of digital telephone exchanges in the country (Petra photo)

Writers group to honour award winners

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 1994 Jordanian Writers' Association (JWA) awards, announced last week, will be presented to the award-winners Nov. 15, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

This year, the awards, which were first established in 1984, will for the first time include an award for democracy, freedom and journalism.

Journalists qualifying for the new award, said president of the JWA, Ibrahim Absi, "should be known for their firm stand in defending democracy and human rights in the Arab World."

The new award, the ninth in the JWA list of awards, will be named after the late Jordanian journalist Michel Nimry, known for his publications on the violation of human rights in the Arab World.

Michel Nimry was assassinated in Athens in 1985. The new award does, to some extent, overlap with the aims of the political column award usually presented to journalists, said Mohammad Mashayekh, member of the JWA.

The other eight JWA awards are for short story, poetry, novel, research and thought, political columns and human rights. The 1994 JWA award to political column writings was awarded to Khairi Mansour of Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The human rights award goes to those writers who were brave enough to disclose human rights violations in the Arab World.

Mr. Absi said that the association believes strongly in such an award because "writers are useless if they do not stand up for those who speak out against injustices."

Everything has a political basis, human rights is a political right, and the association will support all people who are unjustly treated," Mr. Absi said.

The JWA human rights committee, he said, that grants this award, does not belong to any political party.

"They (the committee members) are democratic intellectuals who view human rights as integral to Jordan and the Arab

World," he said.

The human rights award for 1994, which is called the "Munther Anabawi Award" after one of the founders of Arab Human Rights Organisation, is to be presented to three former political prisoners, Dafi Jamani, Hakim Fayed and Mujali Nasrawin, all of whom were released recently from Syrian jails where they had been detained for 21 years.

Previous winners of the prize were lawyer Ibrahim Bakr and former deputy Laith Shubailat.

Candidates for the nine awards, including the new Nimry Award for Democracy, Freedom and Journalism, are nominated by governmental and non-governmental institutions in Jordan and the Arab Writers Federation (AWF), which has bases in 13 Arab countries, said Mr. Mashayekh.

"The association informs all organisations beforehand of its award plans, so the AWF can have enough time to send in nominations," he added.

The Jordanian winners are Huzaima Habayeb who is to be presented with the 1994 Mahmoud Seif Al Din Award for Short Story Writing. Also from Jordan were Fayed Mahmoud for the novel award, and Yousef Abn Loz and Mohammad Amiri who took the poetry awards.

The two other non-Jordanian winners for the 1994 awards were Nasir Nasar of Lebanon, who won the Munif Razzaz Award for Research and Thought, Nabeel Suleiman of Syria, who won the Ghali Halasa Award for novels.

Each winner will receive JD 500, unless two persons are sharing the award.

The nominations for each award are judged by separate five-member committees made up of writers and thinkers.

In the human rights committee, members must be qualified lawyers, Mr. Absi explained.

The delay in announcing the JWA 1994 awards, said Mr. Absi, was because of the internal rift between members of the previous administration committee.

The JWA 1995 awards will be announced very soon, Mr. Absi said.

Private sector to propose construction of \$18m golf course at MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's proposals for projects aimed at promoting the country's tourism sector at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit include an \$18 million golf course, Akel Biltaji, chairman of a private sector sub-committee on tourism preparing for MENA, said Friday.

Mr. Biltaji, who is vice president of investments at Royal Jordanian, said that the total proposed projects are worth about \$1.5 billion and will be submitted with the aim of attracting foreign investors.

He said that his sub-committee has prepared lists of tourism projects including hotels, integrated tourist villages, golf courses, and other facilities to be set up



Akel Biltaji

at Aqaba at an estimated cost of \$500 million, as well as natural therapeutic centres and other related schemes near the Dead Sea estimated at \$500 million. Mr. Biltaji said youth

camping sites at Wadi Rum and hotels at Petra and Wadi Mousa are among the other projects.

The sub-committee said the proposed \$18 million golf course would be constructed near the Queen Alia International Airport, Mr. Biltaji said.

He said work was already under way on a golf course and a tourist zone in Aqaba worth \$168 million, adding that the project is a joint venture undertaken by the Aqaba Region Authority and the American firm Magic Land.

According to Mr. Biltaji, the sub-committee has also plans to develop traditional Jordanian handicrafts in the badia region and other rural communities.



Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat Friday gives the start signal of a march to conserve water. The march, held under the theme "each drop of water counts" was organised by the Jordan Environment Society (JES) in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. Marchers started their walk from the ministry premises and ended at the University of Jordan's sports faculty in the Arjan area, where a sports festival was held. Addressing the festival, Dr Irsheidat said the collection and proper treatment of household waste water helps prevent pollution of surface and ground water sources, thus contributing to upgrading the social and economic conditions of people. Taking part in the march were Ministry of Water and Irrigation's senior staff, the Secretary General of Jordan Valley Authority and a large number of concerned citizens (Petra photo)

111 German cyclists arrive on humanitarian mission

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of 111 German physicians, university professors, and other prominent people representing the University of Giessen in Germany arrived here Friday on a humanitarian mission which involves a bicycle tour of Jordan.

The group calls itself Tour Peiper after a German doctor who dedicated his life and work to helping children with cancer.

Led by Professor FLampert, Tour Peiper will ride 37 kilometres through the

streets of Amman, then make their way to Madaba, Karak, Petra, Wadi Rum and Aqaba, a German embassy spokesperson told the Jordan Times.

The official said the group had collected JD 70,000 in contributions from German citizens and will present a cheque in that amount to Al Amal Cancer Centre. According to the official, this will be the group's first trip to the Middle East, having earlier toured several Eastern European countries, including Russia, on similar humanitarian missions.

From Aqaba Tour Peiper will cross to Eilat to start a trip to Bethlehem and Jerusalem, ending their mission by Oct. 22 when they will fly home from Israel, the embassy said.

Established in 1983 the group is gaining fame and support from the public sector of Germany for their humanitarian efforts, according to the official.

Al Amal Cancer Centre, a-113 bed medical facility, has received contributions from several European countries, as well as specialised training for its staff in the U.S., and has raised significant donations in the Kingdom itself.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

* "Bella de Dia," at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, at 5.00p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Luis Azzarate at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman.

* A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun, Jebel Weibdeh.

Times
9634

Other Flights (Terminal)

Time	Destination
12:10	Amman
13:10	Amman
14:10	Amman
15:10	Amman
16:10	Amman
17:10	Amman
18:10	Amman
19:10	Amman
20:10	Amman
21:10	Amman
22:10	Amman
23:10	Amman
24:10	Amman
25:10	Amman
26:10	Amman
27:10	Amman
28:10	Amman
29:10	Amman
30:10	Amman

MARKET PRICES

Item	Price
Apple	100
Banana	100
Orange	100
Tomato	100
Cucumber	100
Carrot	100
Onion	100
Garlic	100
Beetroot	100
Spinach	100
Broccoli	100
Cauliflower	100
Peas	100
Beans	100
Lentils	100
Chickpeas	100
Wheat	100
Barley	100
Oats	100
Rice	100
Maize	100
Sorghum	100
Millet	100
Buckwheat	100
Rye	100
Tritic	100
Barley	100
Oats	100
Rice	100
Maize	100
Sorghum	100
Millet	100
Buckwheat	100
Rye	100
Tritic	100

U. K. Premier woos voters with pledge to cut taxes

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — British Prime Minister John Major Friday promised radical tax cuts and a war on crime to carry his Conservative Party to a fifth successive election victory.

In a speech to the party's annual conference, Mr. Major pledged to make Britain the "enterprise centre of Europe" and to fight to stay in power until the 21st century.

"Today we meet united, healed, renewed and thirsting for the real fight: with Labour," Mr. Major said. "All elections are important but the next is a watershed — beat Labour one more time, and we've beaten socialism for good."

The next election is due by mid-1997. In opinion polls, Mr. Major's party is trailing about 30 points behind the Labour Party which has been rejuvenated under leader Tony Blair.

Mr. Major announced new initiatives on crime and education.

Britain would establish an FBI-style national squad to support police in the fight against crime and drugs, put 5,000 more police on the streets and double the cash

available to send poorer children to private schools.

Mr. Major answered the pleas of delegates for vote-winning tax cuts. "Now the recession is over, as soon as prudent, we must get taxes down again," he said.

"And be in no doubt I don't only mean income tax. I mean the taxes that damage investment and stultify wealth creation. I mean inheritance tax. I mean capital gains tax. We must cut them, and then — when affordable — we should abolish them."

While standing firm against moves for a federal Europe, Mr. Major steered clear of the rampantly nationalist tone of speeches earlier in the week which brought furious responses from Brussels and Conservatives on the left of the party.

"I'm for Europe, not against it. And I intend to argue for policies that will help it succeed," said Mr. Major, who defeated anti-European critics in his party in a July leadership ballot.

He went on: "We must be sympathetic, but we must stand our corner... We did not enter it (Europe) for a federal Europe. It wouldn't

work for us. Our partners must understand that it's politically and constitutionally unacceptable."

In a speech that could help decide his electoral and political fate, Mr. Major said building peace in Northern Ireland would remain at the top of his government's priorities.

Meanwhile, Defence Secretary Michael Portillo Friday defended a virulently nationalist speech in which he declared that British troops would never fight for Brussels, saying he had an important point to make.

Mr. Portillo's speech Tuesday to the ruling Conservative Party conference infuriated members of his own party who favour the European Union and was criticised by European Commission President Jacques Santer.

But Mr. Portillo said he had been using "vivid language" to make a serious point.

"I don't see why it is regarded as such a sin to use rhetoric to make the anti-federalist case," he told BBC Radio.

"I had to use language in the hall in order to inspire my party to believe that that

is an important matter."

Mr. Portillo, a darling of the Conservative right and tipped as a future party leader, said there was "a real battle to be fought against the creep towards European federalism."

"A politician has to be a statesman some days of the week and he has to be able to inspire his party on other days of the week. You have to be well-rounded in that respect," he added.

Mr. Santer, without mentioning Mr. Portillo by name, described anti-European tirades by politicians as "grotesque". Former Conservative minister Edwina Currie described Mr. Portillo's speech as "irresponsible" and potentially offensive.

The row could damage Mr. Major's efforts to portray the ruling party as newly united.

With the opposition Labour Party launching an offensive over Europe — portraying themselves as pro-European but mindful of British interests — left-wing Conservatives say a shift to the right on Europe by the ruling party could be fatal in an election due by May 1997.



British Prime Minister John Major applauds as Lady Margaret Thatcher takes her seat on the platform for the economics debate on the third day of the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool (AFP photo)

World sends 70th birthday greetings to Lady Thatcher

LONDON (R) — Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher attracted warm tributes from around the world on her 70th birthday Friday, but it was just another day to the "iron lady" of British politics.

World leaders from the Thatcher era, which ended in November 1990 with her resignation, telephoned "happy birthday" messages to Britain's first woman prime minister.

"I hope the rest of your life is as full and challenging as the wonderful life you have already had," former U.S. President George Bush said in a gushing accolade aired on BBC Radio.

He praised Thatcher, now a baroness, for her efforts to maintain Britain's alliance with the United States. With a touch of gallantry, he added: "You don't look 70, anyway."

Lady Thatcher has an adoring following in the United States and regularly conducts public-speaking tours there. Among her closest friends are ex-President Ronald Reagan — a political soulmate with his deeply conservative views — and his wife Nancy.

"You were and are America's finest friend and Ronnie and I will cherish your friendship always," Nancy Reagan said in a

message broadcast on the BBC.

Lady Thatcher said she would not be doing anything special to celebrate. "It's just another day," she told her daughter Carol Thatcher, a journalist, in a birthday interview.

Margaret Thatcher's office said she would spend the evening quietly at home with her husband Sir Denis, who is 80.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said he had met Lady Thatcher during the 1980s at a crucial moment in history.

"I very much value and appreciate the co-operation and understanding that emerged in our enormous number of meetings," he said, speaking through a translator.

Venerated she may be abroad and among many who still support her views at home, but the ex-premier has also aroused strong dislike in Britain.

Her successor, Prime Minister John Major, who has attracted less than glowing reviews from Lady Thatcher in the past five years, touched on this ambivalence in his message.

"The controversies faded but the substance of what someone achieved remains," he said of her 11-year hold on power.

"When she became prime

minister she found a country that had very little confidence, that had years of socialism, that had endemic, deep-rooted problems that many people thought were insoluble.

"I think Margaret Thatcher's great place in history is that she didn't accept that, that she was right about that and that she changed the whole perception of politics towards individual liberty."

Lady Thatcher was given a standing ovation Thursday at the ruling Conservative Party's annual conference.

Mr. Major has given a dinner to celebrate her birthday and Queen Elizabeth will attend another in her honour.

There will also be a celebration in Washington later this month which could raise more than \$2 million for the Thatcher Foundation which aims to further her political aims.

"I've always had a natural passion for politics and a natural interest in history and a natural passion to get things right for the future, and I have brought about colossal changes," she said in the interview with Carol.

"I must carry on. You're just as passionate about the future as you were when you set out on the political path."

Japan cult guru indicted on fresh murder charges

TOKYO (R) — Japanese prosecutors pressed another set of murder charges Friday against cult guru Shoko Asahara, this time over the deaths of a lawyer and his family who disappeared six years ago, Japanese media reported.

The Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect) leader was indicted along with five of his top followers on charges of murdering the couple and their infant son, NHK public television and Kyodo News Agency said.

The 40-year-old Asahara, who has already been indicted on a series of murder counts, including the subway gas attack in March, has admitted ordering his followers to kill the family, NHK quoted prosecutors as saying. Prosecutors were not immediately available to confirm the reports.

The lawyer disappeared along with his wife and 14-month-old child after he helped disenchanted Aum

members leave the cult. The three bodies were found in shallow graves last month.

All those indicted Friday are already in custody and awaiting trial on murder and attempted murder charges relating to sarin nerve gas attacks and the strangling of a rebellious follower, as well as other alleged crimes, NHK said.

The most notorious of the crimes blamed on the Aum cult, the March 20 nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway, killed 11 and barred more than 5,000 passengers.

Friday's indictments came after police exhumed the remains of lawyer Tsutsumi Sakamoto, his wife Satoko and their son Tatsuhiko from concealed mountain-side graves.

The family vanished from their apartment in Yokohama, near Tokyo, in 1989 when Tsutsumi was active in a group of lawyers helping Aum members leave the cult. At the time of

their disappearances, Tsutsumi was 33 and Satoko was 29.

Police sources said that investigators found the graves after Aum members admitted murder charges that they killed the family and buried their bodies.

Media reports apparently based on police briefings only open to domestic-media have said Asahara is believed to have ordered the Sakamotos be killed — with specific instructions they be given lethal injections of drugs — because the lawyer was deemed a threat to the group's activities.

Asahara goes on trial for murder on Oct. 26 in what legal experts call Japan's criminal trial of the century. Asahara's lawyer has said the cult leader has admitted ordering the subway gas attack, but only to avert the threatened disbandment of the group.

Other crimes linked to the group include two abduc-

tion-murders, the execution of a rebel follower, the illegal production of drugs and weapons and another nerve gas attack on a resort city in central Japan in June 1994 which killed seven people and made 600 ill.

Separately, Tokyo's district court is considering whether to comply with requests from the city's governor and state prosecutors to disband the doomsday cult as a religious organisation.

In what would be an even tougher crackdown on the cult, Japanese authorities are also considering whether to apply a controversial subversion law that would ban the group from conducting any activity.

The Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported Friday that Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama has decided not to sanction the use of the harsh law at least until the Tokyo court has ordered the disbandment of the cult.

U.N. conference fails to curb use of landmines

VIENNA (R) — Delegates from 42 nations have failed to agree in Vienna on new international restrictions on the use of landmines.

The three-week U.N.-sponsored conference, reviewing a 1980 convention on inhumane weapons, had sought agreement on new rules that would reduce the risk posed by mines to civilians.

"They will not be able to conclude a new protocol on the land mines by tomorrow," a conference spokeswoman told Reuters.

"But, rather than leave it to another review conference in five years time, they will decide on a new timetable to meet again soon," she said. But she added that it was unlikely a fresh meeting would be held this year.

An official statement said the conference had been "unable to reach agreement on stronger restrictions on the use of anti-personnel mines... (and) failed to complete its main task."

Delegations went some way towards drafting a new document to ban the use and transfer of blinding laser weapons, but they failed to back harder proposals to outlaw the production and stockpiling of these weapons.

The outcome will come as a disappointment to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali who urged delegates at the opening of the conference on Sept. 25 to ban landmines altogether.

"We must eliminate landmines once and for all. We

must ban their use. We must ban their production. We must destroy those that are stockpiled," he said.

The United Nations estimates 20,000 people, many of them children or civilians trying to farm on former battlefields, are killed or maimed in landmine blasts every year.

The international community clears about 100,000 landmines each year but during the same period, between two and five million more are laid, the United Nations says.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and many other relief agencies and humanitarian organisations from around the world backed the idea of a total ban.

The conference spokeswoman said several countries raised objections to a variety of proposed restrictions, including a ban on the use of current stockpiles.

Proposals to set up an international inspectorate to ensure signatories to the convention abided by its rules caused the biggest outcry, with many states protesting that such a move would infringe their sovereignty.

France announced at the start of the conference that it would stop production and export of all anti-personnel mines and would begin destroying its stocks.

China, Pakistan, Russia and Mexico were among those unhappy with curbs obliging them to use only

so-called "smart mines" which self-destruct after a short time period. They argued against the rule partly on grounds of cost.

Iran was reported to have called for a transfer of technology enabling developing countries to produce self-destructing anti-personnel mines.

China, in its address to the conference, said states, especially in the developing world, had a legitimate right to plant mines to defend themselves against foreign aggressors.

The United States, backed by Britain, supported a ban on laser weapons "specifically designed to blind" but would not agree to eliminate lasers to counter optical or electro-optical devices.

The U.S. military has cancelled a backpack laser weapon for army troops based on a new policy against arms designed to blind enemy soldiers, the U.S. Defence Department announced Thursday.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said Deputy Defence Secretary John White gave the order last week to scrap the so-called "laser counter-measures system" on which the army has already spent \$23 million.

The weapon, using a cumbersome backpack, would have allowed a soldier to fire an intense ray of light against an enemy laser position.

"It was an anti-laser laser, an army programme that used a laser to defeat other lasers," Mr. Bacon told

reporters.

Defence Secretary William Perry last month prohibited the military services from developing lasers designed to blind foes permanently. The move followed years of Pentagon resistance to any limitations on exotic laser weapons.

"There were other problems with the (army) programme," Mr. Bacon said in response to questions Thursday.

"It was a costly programme and also it turned out that the equipment was extremely heavy and a soldier carrying the laser counter-measures system could only carry that. He or she couldn't carry any other equipment."

The new defence policy allows U.S. troops to be equipped with lasers used for such purposes as range-finding and targeting, but bans those which could virtually turn the cornea of a human eye to ashes.

The cancellation came less than two months after the army awarded a \$12 million contract to Lockheed Sanders Inc. of Nashua, New Hampshire, to build 20 of the little systems. The service had planned to buy another 30 systems and 25 training sets.

Lasers, which direct high concentrations of light for purposes ranging from measurement to destruction, were once subjects for science fiction buffs.

India 'determined' to hold Kashmir polls

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India will go ahead with elections in the troubled northern state of Kashmir despite threats by Muslim separatists to sabotage them, Home Minister Shankarrao Chavan said in remarks published Friday.

Mr. Chavan said in the southern city of Bangalore Thursday that the legislative polls would be held even though "stray incidents of violence were bound to occur," the Hindu newspaper quoted him saying.

"No force can stop us," Mr. Chavan told the local branch of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party in an apparent reference to neighbouring Pakistan.

India's neighbour has been accused here of backing a bloody Muslim separatist campaign raging since 1989 in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

However, Islamabad denies Indian claims that it arms and trains the guerrillas.

Mr. Chavan said there were "countries which did not want India to succeed in establishing a democratic government" in the northern state, but did not specify when the elections to the Kashmir legislature would be held.

Officials have suggested they could take place before the current period of direct rule by the federal authorities expires in January. The last state assembly

elections were held in Kashmir in 1987 but were marred by widespread allegations of fraud. It has been ruled directly by New Delhi since January 1990.

Mr. Chavan said there were "attempts" to get the public "to boycott the elections and also create violence." Failure to hold the polls "would be a victory for Pakistan," he added.

Muslim militants and politicians in the Kashmir Valley have vowed to sabotage and boycott any elections, and insist they will only be satisfied with complete independence.

More than 12,000 people have died in the separatist drive in Kashmir.

Rwanda offers Zaire to take 20,000 refugees daily from Zaire

KIGALI (R) — Efforts to solve the 15-month-old Rwandan refugee crisis moved forward Friday with Zaire promising to do all it can to send home a million Rwandan refugees on its soil and Rwanda agreeing to take 20,000 a day.

Zaire, after two days of talks with Rwanda and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the northwestern border town of Gisenyi, also agreed to neutralise extremists scaring refugees from going home, a joint statement said.

U.N. officials said the crisis would drag on if concrete deeds did not follow the talks, which ended Thursday.

Rwandan Rehabilitation Minister Patrick Mazimpaka told Reuters

that Rwanda was ready to handle 20,000 returnees daily by increasing the number of crossings and transit centres along its border.

In what may be the first sign of a loosening of the extremist grip on refugee camps, Mr. Mazimpaka also said that some leading genocide suspects in Zaire were heading for "safer" African countries like Cameroon to avoid expulsions.

"The big fish have started moving out of the region because they are not so sure they are safe anymore," Mr. Mazimpaka said.

"There are some countries still safe for them like Cameroon which has over 200 genocide suspects. Unfortunately Cameroon has not responded to our

appeals to arrest these people."

One million Hutu refugees fled to Zaire after last year's civil war which saw Tutsi rebels defeat the then Hutu government that led a genocide of more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The killings were sparked off by the assassination of Hutu military strongman Juvenal Habyarimana in April last year. Vengeful followers, including many of the refugees and Mr. Habyarimana's 40,000-strong army, joined the slaughter.

Fear of revenge and threats by Hutu extremists in camps deter many from returning to Rwanda where jails are packed with 54,000 genocide suspects awaiting trial.

Depardieu junior injured in crash

PARIS (AFP) — Guillaume Depardieu, the 24-year-old actor son of French film star Gerard Depardieu, has been injured in a motorbike crash. Depardieu junior, who has followed his father's footsteps onto the big screen, in particular suffered leg injuries in the crash in the Paris region last Friday night. The young actor made his film debut four years ago with Alain Corneau's "Tous Les Matins Du Monde," in which he co-starred with his father. He recently finished work on a second feature.

Police help Australian fugitive flee crocodile

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian fugitive is still at large in the outback thanks to a hungry saltwater crocodile and sharp-shooting police. Raymond Rankine, wanted for crimes such as threatening to kill, was being hunted by police from the Western Australia town of Kununurra after escaping from jail last month. He was tracked to the Ord River, but when police lunged at him he jumped in the river. As he was swept across the river, a four-metre (12-ft) crocodile slid off the bank and headed towards Mr. Rankine. Police fired on the crocodile, giving Mr. Rankine time to head up the opposite bank and run away. He has not been seen since.

OJ means orange juice, Florida claims

LAKELAND, Florida (R) — The state agency that markets Florida's \$8 billion citrus industry wants to keep the right to use the letters OJ despite a bid by O. J. Simpson to trademark the initials, a state official said. Lawyers have filed notice with the U.S. Patent Office they want to retain the right to use the letters in ads for Florida orange juice, said Michael Sparks of the Florida Department of citrus. "The Florida citrus industry has been using OJ in marketing... certainly for the last 20 years," said Mr. Sparks.

'My name's Brosnan — Pierce Brosnan'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actor Pierce Brosnan, admits it, he practiced the five most important words for his new movie role like no others. "My name's Bond, James Bond." "I've actually said those words, yes, in front of the mirror and in the car. "If someone catches you doing it, it can be very embarrassing," Brosnan told Movieline magazine. The Irish-born actor said he was optimistic his first role as the legendary Agent 007 in the soon-to-be-released Goldeneye would be a success, despite criticism the suave British secret agent character has become dated with the end of the cold war.

Secretary says Pavarotti will never be her man

MILAN (R) — Luciano Pavarotti's secretary, denying newspaper reports of an affair, was quoted as saying the opera superstar would never be the man of her life or the father of her children. Nicoletta Mantovani, 29, denied newspaper reports she was pregnant by the Italian tenor, who was 60 Thursday. "I'm a girl who has the good fortune to live close to an exceptional man who has opened up my mind," she said, according to an advance copy of an interview with the Italian magazine Chi. "But I am not pregnant, as has been written. Pavarotti will never be the man of my life nor the father of my children."

Depardieu junior injured in crash

PARIS (AFP) — Guillaume Depardieu, the 24-year-old actor son of French film star Gerard Depardieu, has been injured in a motorcycle crash. Depardieu junior was following his father's footsteps onto the big screen, in particular the film "The Untouchables" in which he starred with his father. He recently finished work on a second feature.

Police help Australian fugitive flee crocodile

SYDNEY (AP) — An Australian fugitive is still at large in the outback thanks to a hungry crocodile and a police officer. Police officer Raymon Rankine, wanted in criminal cases such as drug trafficking, was being hunted by police from the Western Australian town of Kunming. After escaping from jail last month, he was tracked to the Ok River, but when police hunted for him he jumped the river. As he was away across the river, a crocodile (12m) crocodile ate off the bank and headed towards Mr. Rankine. Police tried on the crocodile, giving Mr. Rankine time to head up the opposite bank and run away. He has not been seen since.

OJ means orange juice, Florida claims

LAKE LAND, Florida (AP) — The state agency that markets Florida's 58 billion cans of orange juice is asking the federal government to keep the trademark of the letter "OJ" and by O.J. Simpson to trademark the initials a state official said. Lawyers have filed a motion with the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles to keep the trademark. The state agency said it had spent \$1 million to develop the trademark. "The Florida Department of Citrus said it had been using OJ in marketing for the last 20 years," said Mr. Spink.

'My name's Brosnan — Pierce Brosnan'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Pierce Brosnan is asking the federal government to keep the trademark of the letter "OJ" and by O.J. Simpson to trademark the initials a state official said. Lawyers have filed a motion with the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles to keep the trademark. The state agency said it had spent \$1 million to develop the trademark. "The Florida Department of Citrus said it had been using OJ in marketing for the last 20 years," said Mr. Spink.

Secretary says Pavarotti will never be her man

MILAN (AP) — Italian Pavarotti's secretary, denying new reports, said she was not his girlfriend. "I am a girl who has the good fortune to be close to a great man who has opened up his mind," she said. "I am not a girl who has the good fortune to be close to a great man who has opened up his mind." "I am not a girl who has the good fortune to be close to a great man who has opened up his mind." "I am not a girl who has the good fortune to be close to a great man who has opened up his mind."

Mandela: Government will last full term

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — President Nelson Mandela has played down clashes with his governing partners and said he expected his administration to last its full five-year term.

In a meeting with senior executives and members of the board of directors of the Associated Press, Mr. Mandela pointed out successes of the first 18 months of his government that he said don't always get reported in the media.

Rumours earlier Thursday that Deputy President F.W. De Klerk of the white-led National Party would resign from the government affected South Africa's bond markets and currency. Mr. De Klerk's spokesman called the rumours untrue and ridiculous.

Recent verbal clashes between Mr. Mandela and Mr. De Klerk, the former president succeeded by Mr. Mandela after South Africa's first all-race election last year, fueled speculation that Mr. De Klerk and his National Party would pull out of the unity government that also includes the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party.

Mr. Mandela insisted no such split was imminent.

"Mr. De Klerk and I understand that we need each other," he said. "It's not a question of personal likes. It's of an absolute necessity that we be together."

Mr. Mandela said he "had no doubt that it (the unity government) will last for the full five-year term."

Dressed in a casual light blue outfit, Mr. Mandela gestured with his right hand while detailing what he called "the progress made since his African National Congress (ANC) won the 1994 election."

He cited new economic figures that showed inflation rising at 7.5 per cent in the 12 months to August, well below the double digits of earlier this year and less than expected.

"The most significant basis for this economic upturn is the phenomenal growth in fixed investments, a reflection of the profound confidence that entrepreneurs have in the country's long-term prospects," Mr. Mandela said.

Such growth was needed to pay for the widespread development programmes the ANC-led government has promised to millions of impoverished blacks, he said.

In addition, South Africa must study economic incentives for foreign investors in order to compete with the developing nations of Asia, Mr. Mandela said.

He described some of the living conditions he has encountered in traveling through South Africa, such as villagers who depend on a filthy stream for water and burning cow dung to heat their dwellings and cook their food.

To allow party politics or opposition groups to prevent those people from getting clean water and electricity would be a tragedy, Mr. Mandela said.

"We would be regarded as traitors by our people and the entire world," he said.

Mr. Mandela has been accused by some militant and populist blacks of trying too hard to appease whites at the expense of helping the black majority that voted him to power.

He said the whites, through the advantages of the apartheid system, have better education and crucial roles in keeping the economy and country going.



Austrian Chancellor and head of the Socialist Party Franz Vranitzky speaks during a press conference after breakdown of talks over an austerity budget (AFP photo)

Austria wakes up to surprise poll campaign

VIENNA (R) — Austria was plunged into a surprise election campaign Friday, nearly three years early, after its coalition government broke up in a dispute over spending cuts.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky was expected to present the government's resignation to President Thomas Klestil Friday after a vote by the National Assembly to dissolve parliament and call a snap election, probably on Dec. 17.

Mr. Vranitzky's Social Democrat Party has been at the helm for 46 of the past 50 years in Austria, either in coalition or alone. Its coalition partner, the Conservative People's Party of Wolfgang Schuessel, has held office for 33 of those years.

The public divorce, just nine months into their third joint administration under Mr. Vranitzky, signalled the end of an era.

"One thing is clear: We've come to the end of something. What isn't clear is what its beginning," the mass-circulation Kurier said in an early Friday edition.

Opinion polls indicated by the two-party system that has dominated Austria since its defeat in World War II might give way to a three-way race whose outcome could radically alter the political landscape.

Voters in Austria, now a member of the European Union, have steadily drifted away from the two mainstream parties to younger movements, and now the old allies themselves are seeking potential new partners.

Support for the far-right Freedom Party soared to unprecedented heights in an opinion poll released Thursday shortly after the coalition collapsed.

The survey, for the daily Neue Kronen Zeitung, put

Joerg Haider's nationalist, anti-immigrant party level with the Schuessel's Conservatives with 28 per cent support — enough to give the two a secure ruling majority in a new parliament.

The poll gave Mr. Vranitzky's Social Democrats just 31 per cent backing — nearly four points down on last October's general election result, which was already the dominant party's worst showing since 1945.

The survey put the environmentalist Greens Party in fourth place with eight per cent and the Liberal Forum Party on five per cent — not enough backing to help Mr. Vranitzky beat an alliance of Conservatives and the hard right.

But analysts cautioned that the two big parties could return to power, with the Conservatives as senior partner.

Mr. Vranitzky was forced to concede after six weeks of fruitless budget wrangling that he could no longer oppose early elections.

Mr. Schuessel, denounced by his erstwhile partners for dumping the coalition to further his own personal ambitions, also professed regrets that no agreement had been possible on how to trim the bloated state budget.

But he said "a partnership that cannot agree on a budget is not a partnership." He urged the Social Democrats not to cling to office "with rubber suckers."

After taking nearly a quarter of the vote in last October's election, Mr. Haider beamed at the prospect of more gains.

"If voters make the Freedom Party the decisive force, one cannot shirk the responsibility," he told reporters.

Japan admits lack of 'equal footing' in Korea annexation

TOKYO (AP) — Seeking to defuse an increasingly bitter dispute with South Korea, Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama indirectly acknowledged Friday that Japan had used coercion to annex the Korean peninsula 85 years ago.

Mr. Murayama infuriated Koreans by telling lawmakers last week that Japan's colonial rule of Korea from 1910 to 1945 was carried out under a legally valid treaty, and his government had stuck to that stance in recent days despite angry protests from Seoul.

Many older Koreans still have bitter memories of brutal Japanese treatment during the colonial period. Their language was banned, they were forced to take Japanese names, and their culture was suppressed. During World War II, thousands of Koreans were conscripted as forced labourers or made to serve as sex slaves to the imperial army.

Both South and North Korea maintain that the treaty sanctioning the Japanese takeover was signed under threat of military force. The two Koreas were divided after Japan's World War II surrender ended its colonial rule.

On Friday, under increasing pressure, Mr. Murayama backed off a bit on his earlier remarks, suggesting that the Koreans submitted to the pact under duress.

"We can't help but recognise that formally it was a treaty, but I don't think that both sides were on an equal footing at the time of its conclusion," Mr. Murayama told lawmakers.

There was no immediate official response from Seoul to the statement. On Friday, about 100 riot police were guarding the Japanese embassy in downtown Seoul, the scene of frequent anti-Japanese protests. About a dozen students staged a short protest demanding Mr. Murayama's resignation, but no other incidents were reported.

Russia's stability depends on Chechenya, Yeltsin says

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin said Friday that stability in Russia depended on the situation in rebel Chechenya and Moscow would press on with peace efforts despite a flare-up of tension.

"We will not stray from the peaceful path, however much we are pushed by (separatist leader) Dzhokhar Dudaev," ITAR-TASS news agency reported Mr. Yeltsin as telling heads of Russian republics meeting in the Kremlin.

Mr. Yeltsin accused Mr. Dudaev of ruining Chechenya during his independence drive which began four years ago and prompted Russia last December to send troops to try to rein in the region.

Thousands of civilians, rebels and Russian servicemen have been killed in fighting which has devastated large parts of Chechenya. The capital, Grozny, is still in ruins.

Russia would help rebuild the region, Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying. He singled out aid for reconstruction, pensions and wages.

"The political stability in the country will depend on the situation in Chechenya," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Russia faces a parliamentary election in December and the Kremlin leader can clearly ill afford a resumption of the bloodshed which has been criticised at home and abroad.

The situation in Chechenya took a turn for the worse last week when Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov, commander of the Russian troops there, was nearly killed in a bomb attack. He is still fighting for his life in a Moscow hospital.

Both sides have since suspended the implementation of a July 30 military agreement which provided for disarmament of the rebels in exchange for withdrawal of most Russian troops.

The Chechen side subsequently said more than 30 people had been killed in two bomb attacks on villages and that they would not talk peace unless U.N. peacekeeping troops were sent to the region.

But Aslan Maskhadov, the top Chechen military negotiator, told reporters Friday he was ready to resume talks on implementing the military deal with Anatoly Shkirko, deputy commander of Russia's Interior Ministry troops, appointed Thursday to take over from Gen. Romanov.

"There is no alternative to the accord," Mr. Maskhadov said.

Gen. Shkirko was due to arrive in Grozny later Friday.

Progress in implementing the accord has been held up by mutual recriminations. But it is seen as the main hope for a long-term settlement which would have to tackle the issue of whether Chechenya should be independent or part of Russia.

Mr. Maskhadov criticised the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which has been mediating in the peace talks, for what he called its failure to act more resolutely to secure peace and human rights.

Russian military officials told Interfax three Russian servicemen had been wounded in rebel attacks in the last 24 hours.

Russia's Federal Security Service issued a statement through TASS, saying it had information that Mr. Dudaev's fighters, dressed as pro-Moscow police, were plotting to seize Chechens across the region to fan tension.

The report could not be confirmed.

Meanwhile Russian news agencies reported Thursday that unidentified gunmen kidnapped a Russian military official in Chechenya amid mounting tension in the breakaway southern republic.

Lt. Col. Alexander Fadeyev, head of the Interior Ministry's Supply Department in Chechenya, was seized from his car by armed men in the capital, Grozny, Wednesday.

A search has been launched for Col. Fadeyev and the assailants, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

Also on Thursday, prominent reformist lawmaker Yegor Gaidar and human rights activist Sergei Kovalev sent a letter to Russian and Chechen military leaders urging them to salvage the peace process.

"For their selfish interests, the war parties in Moscow and Grozny are again ready to plunge our people into the nightmare of last winter," the Interfax News Agency quoted the letter as saying.

"You, who order arms to speak or fall silent, can stop them."

India to raise defence spending if Pakistan gets arms

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India will be forced to increase defence spending if Pakistan receives military equipment from the United States, the sale will not harm Indo-U.S. ties, Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Friday.

"We will have to step up our defence expenditure so that we can get the necessary equipment to meet the threat perception from Pakistan," the foreign minister told the Press Trust of India news agency.

Mr. Mukherjee, speaking ahead of his departure for a Non-Aligned Movement summit in Cartagena, Colombia, dismissed U.S. suggestions that New Delhi's concern over the proposed \$370-million arms deal was "exaggerated."

"Our threat perception following the arms transfer is real and it is not true to suggest that it is over-exaggerated," he said.

While expressing concern over the sale of U.S. weaponry to arch rival Pakistan, Mr. Mukherjee said he did not believe the deal would harm growing relations between India and the United States.

"I don't think it is going to affect Indo-U.S. relations adversely," he said.

"However, it does not look nice in the context of growing and expanding relations between India and the United States."

India and Pakistan, both of which are believed to possess nuclear weapons, have fought three wars since independence from British colonial rule in 1947, two of them over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim separatist militants battling to end India rule over Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state. Pakistan denies the charges.

"We consider Pakistan as a terrorist state like any other fundamentalist state which is sponsoring terrorism and fundamentalism," Mr. Mukherjee said.

The U.S. Senate last month agreed to a one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment banning U.S. defence sales to Pakistan unless the White House can certify that Islamabad is not developing nuclear weapons.

Mr. Mukherjee also dismissed criticism of India's refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and brushed aside fears among the Group of Seven (G7) developed countries of a renewed conflict between India and Pakistan.

"There is no potential danger," he said. "We have no intention of launching any war unless Pakistan wants it."

"Instead of telling us what to do, G7 should advise Pakistan."

North to target U.S. troops if new Korean war erupts

SEOUL (R) — North Korea will strike American troops stationed in South Korea first if a new war erupts on the Korean peninsula in hopes of sparking an anti-war backlash in the United States, a North Korea defector said Friday.

"North Korea military leaders believe that if attacks are first focused on the 40,000 U.S. troops and several thousands of U.S. soldiers are killed or injured, there will be anti-war demonstrations by U.S. citizens," Colonel Choe Ju-Hwal told a news conference.

Col. Choe, 46, who left the North in May and defected to South Korea through an unidentified South East Asian country late last month, said Pyongyang believed high casualties would lead to political turmoil in the United States and "break U.S.-South Korean military alliance."

About 37,000 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea to bolster 655,000 South Korean soldiers facing the 1.1-million-strong North Korean army.

But Col. Choe, the highest-ranking North Korean military officer to defect to the South, said Pyongyang leaders were not convinced North Korea could win in a fresh war.

An armistice agreement ended a 1950-53 war between North and South Korea and the two countries technically are still at war.

Col. Choe said North Korea leaders could start a war if they faced major political or economic problems threatening their Stalinist regime or if U.S. troops were withdrawn through a U.S.-North Korean peace treaty.

Col. Choe said the North has deployed about 70 per cent of its armed forces south of the North Korean capital of Pyongyang and seven mechanised army corps were concentrated in areas within 20 kilometres of the inter-Korean border.

But Col. Choe said he expected the Communist North to collapse within five years because of acute economic problems.

"The severe economic problem will force North Korea to open its doors to the outside world, which will inevitably disintegrate the country," he said.

Col. Choe said North Korea's uncrowned leader Kim Jong-il, who has little military background, has not yet taken full control of the country's armed forces.

"Kim Jong-il announced military policies through books published under his name, but as a matter of fact they were written by senior military officers or experts," Col. Choe said.

"There was a coup attempt by general-level officers in 1992 and all of them were executed," he said. "Many high-ranking officers opposed Mr. Kim at heart, only pretending to obey him."

He said Mr. Kim had given senior army officers luxurious mansions and foreign

Sedans in a bid to win their support.

Kim Jong-il, the eldest son and long-designated heir of the late North Korean President Kim Il-Sung, has yet to be officially confirmed to the two key posts his father held — general secretary of the Communist Party and state president.

Kim Il-Sung, who ruled the reclusive North for nearly five decades, died in July last year.

Col. Choe, a former military attaché in Czechoslovakia, said he had met South Korean businessmen without seeking Pyongyang's authorisation during other overseas assignments.

He said he had decided to defect while working as a senior executive of a company run by North Korea's Defence Ministry because of fears he would be summoned and punished by Pyongyang.

He left his wife, 42, three children, aged 17, 12 and 10, and his 67-year-old mother in the North.

Tame New Hampshire affair suits Dole

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP) — After a few minutes together in the dark, 10 Republican presidential candidates used their first televised forum to politely compete for support in New Hampshire's leadoff primary, a tone that suited front-runner Bob Dole just fine.

"We did what we needed to do," the Senate majority leader said Wednesday night after the 90-minute event. "I'm running against (President) Clinton."

The format did not allow the candidates to interact. The Republican hopefuls used their roughly eight minutes of air time to introduce themselves to New Hampshire voters.

"I was not here to lay a hand," publishing heir Steve Forbes said when asked if he was disappointed that Sen. Dole did not take much fire. "I was here to deliver a message."

One candidate made his splash before the event got under way: After months of promising to support the Republican nominee, Pat Buchanan re-opened the door to a third-party run for president if he considered the Republican nominee unacceptable.

Besides himself, he said Sen. Dole and Texas Sen. Phil Gramm fit the bill. He never mentioned him by name, but Mr. Buchanan was apparently delivering a message to retired Gen. Colin Powell, who is considering the race and, unlike most of the field, supports abortion rights, gun control and affirmative action.

Although most of the candidates have been organising in New Hampshire for months, the forum was billed as a curtain-raiser to the heavy campaigning that will take place as the February primary draws closer. Most of the candidates were staying around to campaign separately Thursday.

For a moment there was some doubt as to whether the candidates would get their chance to court a statewide and national cable television audience. The lights went out briefly in WMUR-TV's studio, forcing Gov. Steve Merrill to deliver introductory remarks in the dark. But they came back on just in time for Lamar Alexander, first up as the candidates were questioned in alphabetical order.

By the time businessman Morry Taylor finished more than an hour later, it was clear there was considerable agreement among the candidates on the need for dramatic tax reform, balancing the federal budget and shifting responsibility for welfare, schools and other programmes back to the states.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1974

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المنشورة بالإنجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 684311, 699634

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Grounding Oslo II?

THE INK on the Oslo II accord had barely dried when the two parties began to encounter major hurdles in the process of its implementation. First came Israel's refusal to honour its commitment under the agreement to free all women prisoners as clearly called for by the agreement. Israeli President Ezer Weizman has refused to pardon two Palestinian women prisoners because, to quote his words, "they have Israeli blood on their hands."

This posture suggests that Israeli prime minister, his cabinet and the Knesset, which endorsed the latest accord with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), have all failed to do their homework properly by failing to coordinate with their head of state on a very critical element in the deal. After lengthy and tortuous negotiations in Taba, the two sides did agree on the freeing of many Palestinian prisoners including all the women incarcerated for their involvement in acts against the Israeli occupation. This agreement was further signed and sealed at the White House before an international audience and witnessed by no other than President Bill Clinton, His Majesty King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak and a host of other dignitaries from the four corners of the globe. Israel cannot now claim that it is excused by domestic considerations from implementing basic aspects of the Taba accord.

Then reports surfaced confirming that Israel had embarked on massive housing campaigns in the West Bank including East Jerusalem. These prompted the spokesman of the PNA to characterise the peace process between the Palestinians and Israel as a farce. When 1,400 new housing units are added to the already large number of settlements in the occupied territories in 1995 alone, one begins to wonder where the creation of all these new facts will lead the peace talks.

The picture does not become less gloomy when we take into consideration that the timetable for redeployment is also being undermined by Israel. On this score, Israel's Peace Now Movement has accused the Rabin government of implementing on the ground the same policy of the Likud. If this is indeed the case, there is little wonder why regional peace looks much farther away than the world initially thought.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily said that the Taba agreement signed in Washington was not a peace treaty, but a provisional agreement that gave the Palestine National Authority (PNA) the opportunity to guarantee the containment of what Israel calls acts of terrorism against its citizens. The peace process will continue because Israel wants it to, said Fahd Al Fakel, and because the Jewish state's leadership said it would cooperate with the PNA to stem such attacks. The writer added that all the technology and weaponry in Israel's possession could not protect its citizens from resistance attacks, but through cooperation with the PNA, Israel hopes to ensure security for its citizens. According to the writer, Yitzhak Rabin's words to Arafat at the Washington signing implied: Give me security and I will give you a state.

A columnist in Al Dustour urged the government to promptly interfere to end rumours regarding the eviction of refugees from the camps. Press reports about land owners attempting to reclaim property where camps are established caused much anxiety among the Kingdom's refugee population, said Mohammad Daoud, who added that the reports also prompted some people to link this move with rumours that the permanent settlement of refugees in Jordan will provide a solution to the refugee question. Fueling the rumours, said the writer, were political groups that aim to undermine the whole peace process by stirring Palestinian and Jordanian fears about the PNA-Israeli accords and the Israel-Jordan peace treaty. He said that one proposal to quash the rumours is to enable the refugees to buy the land where homes were built since 1948.

Jordanian Perspective

Palestinians need funds to consolidate self-rule

By Dr. Musa Keilani

DESPITE confusion and disputes over the fine points in their Sept. 28 accord on expanded self-rule in the West Bank, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are slowly moving ahead in implementing the agreement. The Palestinians in four small West Bank villages are already tasting how it is like to live without the intimidating Israeli army presence in their midst.

However, it would not be true to say that the Palestinians are enjoying anything more than that at this point in time since the Israeli army's departure has brought into play a completely new game and set of rules.

That is where the PLO leadership faces the toughest challenge. The residents of the West Bank are hoping that the PLO would be able to bring about a qualitative change in their lives and end the miseries that were part of the Israeli occupation. What we have seen in Gaza since May 1994 does not encourage us to believe that the PLO would be able to live up to the expectations of its constituency.

Indeed, one can hardly blame the PLO in this context. Despite the euphoria in Washington that we saw on television on Sept. 28, when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the autonomy accord, we have yet to see the world powers actually moving to support the implementation of the agreement by extending material aid to the Palestinians.

The international community has to recognise that the Israeli evacuation of four army posts in the West Bank last week was the first step towards, hopefully, the long-awaited end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. From what we have seen so far, it would appear that both sides to the autonomy agreement are determined to fulfill their obligations and commitments to ensure that the entire process would be a success.

But it would be naive for the world community to simply leave it to Israel and the PLO to make the process a success. Quite simply, Israel and the PLO implementing the self-rule agreement and then entering final status negotiations next year is not enough for success since success, by definition, means a qualitative change to the lives of the Palestinian people.

There are numerous real-life issues to be tackled in the West Bank. The infrastructure of the West Bank, including health, education and social services, is completely in ruins. Unemployment is very high; so is the cost of the living. Despite the so-called recognition of the Palestinian passport by many countries, most holders of the document find it difficult to secure visas for travel abroad to take up jobs.

Not that the PLO is facing the problem for the first time. The situation was and remains much graver in the Gaza Strip, where the PLO-led Palestinian National Authority (PNA) launched self-rule in May 1994. The best that the PNA could do was to contain the situation and maintain the status quo. But now the magnitude of the problem facing the PLO is much larger, given that the West Bank has a Palestinian population of more than two million while the Gaza Strip has only 800,000.

If the international donor community, which had promised up to \$2.4 billion in aid to the Palestinians in five years since 1993, fails to recognise that the channelling of the assistance has to be accelerated and should not be hampered by red tape, then there is little hope that

the autonomy accord would reach its goals. Goodwill on both sides, supported in words by the international community, is not a guarantee to the success of the process. The people on the street should actually feel a change for the better. It is no secret that the PLO coffers are empty and the PNA needs as much funds it could lay its hands on as it moves towards taking over the administration of the entire West Bank.

One would probably justify the conditions of "transparency and accountability" attached by the World Bank, which is coordinating international aid for the PNA, before it releases funds to the Palestinian authority in the Gaza Strip. But the World Bank, or the powers behind the international institution, should also realise that the PNA needs to have administrative structures in place in the West Bank to replace the withdrawing Israelis.

If the PNA were to suffer the same experience in securing aid as it did in the first one year of self-rule, then the hopes attached to the Sept. 28 accord have to be reviewed and revised more closely.

That is not to say that the World Bank or any of the donors themselves should simply write blank cheques for the PNA. What they have to do is to speed up the process of "assessing" the needs of the West Bank and cut away the red tape to ensure that whatever funds are available are actually dispensed with as quickly as possible. Without such an approach, there will be more frustrations leading to violence and bloodshed in the West Bank — something that the Palestinians, Israelis, others in the region and outside it, can do without.

Writers debate issue of refugee camps

THE WEEK IN PRINT

IN THE PAST week the Arabic newspapers focused attention on Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, the Palestine issue and Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories, pan-Arab affairs and domestic issues as well.

A writer in Al Ra'i daily said that the time was not opportune for raising the question of the refugee camps in Jordan especially as the country is approaching the Middle East and North Africa summit which would focus attention not on refugees but rather on the economy. Encouraged by a court ruling in favour of land owners on which the Al Hussein camp is built, owners of other land on which other refugee camps are built are raising the question of their land ownership, said Sultan Al Hattab. The writer said that sooner or later the refugee problem would be raised but that time was not ripe just now, especially as Israel refuses to repatriate Palestinian refugees or displaced people.

Why now? was the title of a column by Mohammad Kawash in Al Dustour referring to the camps question. Is this matter connected with the recently signed agreement between Israel and the Palestinians? Is this part of the pressure exercised by foreign forces on Jordan to force it to settle the refugees for good? asked the writer. He said that raising this question now would create confusion in the local, Arab and foreign media and certainly this was not the right time to create new problems in the country. He said that the camps had been in existence for decades, and added that the government should interfere and find the right solution to land ownership in order to avoid further headaches for the country.

Turning attention to the plight of the Palestinians who were expelled by

Muammar Qadhafi and are now stranded in desert camps near the Egyptian-Libyan border, a columnist in Al Dustour said that Libya had taken the measure in a foolish bid to draw world public attention to its own predicament resulting from the U.N. sanctions. Also by directing the Libyan people's attention to an external issue the Libyan leader is trying to make his people forget about their own internal problems resulting from the sanctions on their country, said Yasser Za'atreh. The writer said that the move was achieving the opposite objective because the expulsion order was being exploited by the proponents of the Oslo deal and reviving the old idea that Palestinians have to turn their backs to the Arab Nation and make an alliance with the Israel instead.

By creating a new camp for the Palestinians in the desert, the Libyans cannot escape the world's wrath over its alleged involvement in the Lockerbie affair, said Mahmoud Rimawi a writer in Al Ra'i. By exposing the Palestinians to further ordeals and by causing them more sufferings, the Libyans can by no means achieve any benefits for their country except winning for themselves the anger and hatred of the Palestinians among other people, said the writer. The eviction of the Palestinians from Libya coincided with Tripoli's bid to have a seat in the U.N. security council noted the writer. He said how can Libya be entrusted with the world peace and justice while it practices actions which totally contradict with the U.N. charter and objectives?

In the view of Fakhri Saleh, writing in Al Dustour, the Oslo II agreement between Israel and the Palestinians is far worse than Oslo I because Oslo II was simply dictated by

Israel to the Palestinian leadership. The writer said that the deal was aimed at guaranteeing the security of the Jewish settlements rather than giving the Palestinians their rights in their lands. Once the redeployment of Israeli troops has been completed, the Palestinians would witness Israeli forces, easily returning to the cities from which they have withdrawn and freely interfering in Palestinian affairs especially whenever the security of settlements is endangered. The Israelis will continue to steer all future negotiations with the Palestinians in a manner that would serve their objectives and ensure security for their settlers in Arab lands, the writer said.

Hamadeh Faraneb disagreed with this view saying that the regaining of the Palestinian homeland was bound to happen in stages and not in one go. Writing in Al Dustour, Faraneb said that the opponents of the Gaza and Jericho first agreement had been pessimistic about any expansion of the Palestinian self-rule deal between Israel and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and never believed that the Palestinians would be able to gradually regain their rights.

Of course the opponents of the peace treaty do not admit their defeat and they would point to the existence of the Jewish settlements on Arab land as a failure for all the Arab-Israeli agreements, he added. But he said the gradual reclamation of the occupied lands and the Israeli withdrawal from Arab towns constitute the first step towards the fulfilment of the Palestinian people's dreams of an independent state.

Having gained much experience from their dealings with the Arab World and Israel, the PNA now has a golden opportunity to set up a modern state that would reward the Palestinians for their sacrifices and struggle to gain their freedom, said Hosni Ayesb a writer in Al Ra'i. The writer said that the Palestinians deserved a state where human rights are respected and where the people can enjoy democracy. With their agreement with the Israelis the Palestinians were able through peace agreements to attain what the whole Arab Nation had failed to help them achieve for decades, said the writer. He added that the deals with Israel regardless of their many flaws had put an end to the dreams of Zionism.

Commenting on pan-Arab relations, a writer in Al Dustour said that despite the fact that five years had passed since the Gulf crisis, the Kuwaitis were still adamant in their position towards the Arab countries especially those that did not support foreign troops intervention in the Arabian peninsula. Saleh Qallab said that the Kuwaitis were still living in the past, refusing to embark on any moves towards reconciliation to create a better future for the Arab World. He said that the Kuwaitis were particularly hostile to the Jordanians and the Palestinians over their stand during the Gulf war and saw in Iraq's invasion of their country a cause for keeping the door closed before any reconciliation among Arab states.

Tareq Masarweh writing in Al Ra'i said that Kuwait's Crown Prince

Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, bore the responsibility for the crisis with Iraq and that he was also responsible for the failure of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti meeting held in Jeddah in late July 1990 to settle the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute. The columnist said that the Kuwaiti premier who refuses to see Kuwait mending fences with Jordan was setting his own terms for the resumption of normal bilateral relations. The Kuwaiti premier should realise and remember that it was King Hussein who was instrumental in organising the stationing of Arab troops in Kuwait when the emirate was threatened by the then Iraqi leader Abdul Karim Qasem in the late. He said that Kuwait must remember that it was King Hussein's idea of settling the crisis through an Arab solution be added. The writer also noted that it was Jordan that warned of the danger of bringing in foreign troops which are now imposing their hegemony on the Gulf.

A writer in Al Dustour said that the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Water to save water will continue to be in vain as long as it fails to mend the water pipes that often are broken and flood the streets with the precious water. Taher Adwan said "that he appreciated the ministry's drive and campaigns to increase public awareness of the need to save water, but he said failure to repair the broken pipes over prolonged periods of time was bound to defeat the purpose of any campaign. The writer said that repair of broken pipes should take place immediately similar to putting out fires as soon as they break out because delay means an incalculable loss for the country.

While the world witnesses moves to give women equal rights, Jordanian families continue to witness horrible instances of 'humiliation of women at home by the men according to Nabil Sharif, the editor of Al Dustour. Dr. Sharif said that he had learnt of numerous cases where the wife endures the brutality of her husband silently for fear of exposure to neighbours, family and relatives and for fear of the husband's wrath. The writer said that many Jordanian women were subjected to regular beatings and cursing by frustrated or ill-mannered husbands and they keep silent about such humiliation. While many Jordanian men brag about their support of women's rights in public they practice the worst abuse against them at home, added the writer. Such situations are a stigma for society as a whole and serves as a time bomb threatening social stability as the country approaches the 21st century, he said.

Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud a writer in Al Dustour criticised the management of public projects saying that most of the loans which an agency or organisation obtain do not help promote production because a great deal is spent on buying furniture and cars for the executives.

Borrowing money and investing it in non-productive schemes has been the main reason for the country's indebtedness and the failure of the project to produce and ensure exports have been behind the aggravated unemployment situation in the country. The writer said that a great deal of borrowed money was being used for setting up luxurious offices and unnecessary facilities and that little went to the production process itself due to ill planning. The borrowed money he stressed should finance the development of industry or agriculture and as little as possible should be spent on offices and luxury.

LETTERS

Democracy of the law

To the Editor:

I had to read, with attention, both the quotations:

1. By Mr. Hubert Dobers of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation: "There should be freedom of speech here and I was hurt to see that it was prevented. . . the exercise of democracy failed to a certain extent." (Jordan Times Oct. 11, 1995, Letter to the Editor.)

2. By the weekly Shihab of Oct. 14, 1995, page 2: "The Germans criticise the dictatorship of Ma'an Abu Nowar. . . The Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation was extremely disgusted because of the interruption by Senator Ma'an Abu Nowar against a member of the staff of the Chamber of Deputies, who criticised the performance of the Chamber and some Articles of the Constitution. The German director said: 'I have been hurt because democracy has failed in sending the message which we seek, that is democracy. . . when one of us in this meeting was prevented from speaking his opinion only because he is a member of the staff of Parliament. . . He added: 'I am really astonished.'"

While I have to think that the two quotations are connected somehow, I feel it is my duty to explain that:

1. No one was prevented from speaking during the sessions. There were interruptions here and there, but no prevention whatsoever.

2. It was my duty to call the attention of the Chairman, His Excellency Taher Al Masri, to note what a member of the staff of the National Assembly was saying in contravention of the neutrality and non-political status of the parliamentary staff. I said: "Even the Speaker of the Chamber cannot say what that junior clerk was dabbling in."

3. With the extreme tolerance for which he is very well known, Mr. Masri declined to prevent the clerk from his oratory, thus his criticism soared as high as the Sovereign and his rights in the Constitution.

I am sure that Mr. Dobers would have not defended the contravention by the clerk had he known that legally, politically and morally he had no right to dabble in politics of the nature discussed in the said seminar, and every word he said was extremely sensitive politically, legally and morally, because of his status as a member of the Parliamentary

staff. He was only interrupted by me, not prevented by the Chair, which is perhaps more tolerant than the law of the land would permit.

In the Rules of Procedure of the German Bundestag, it is the duty of its president to uphold its dignity and rights "and conduct its debates fairly and impartially." The British House of Commons, well known as the Mother of Parliaments, "has for many years had a non-political, permanent and professional staff system. The more senior or express their opinions publicly on any sensitive issue." Furthermore this parliamentary tradition is practised in all Western Democracies, certainly including Germany.

Let me appeal to Mr. Dobers, if he really was astonished, not to be, because I can assure him that we the Jordanians have a democracy not dissimilar to that of our friends the Germans. It is the democracy of the Rule of Law.

Dr. Ma'an Abu Nowar,
Amman

Clinton vows U.S. support for world's poor

WASHINGTON (R) — President Clinton, saying the next few years are critical for the world economy, vowed that the United States would not turn its back on the rest of the world and its poorest citizens.

"It is the most intensive period of economic change since the industrial revolution," Mr. Clinton told policymakers from 180 nations at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

"No nation can turn its back and we will all have to work together if we want the promise of the 21st century to outweigh its peril," he added.

The meeting has been consumed by doubts about Washington's willingness to continue to play a leading role in the two financial institutions at the core of the world economy.

Mr. Clinton promised the delegates his administration would stand by its international commitments and criticized American voices of isolation.

Much of the concern at the annual meeting has centered on the future of the International Development Association (IDA), a World Bank affiliate that lends money at no interest to the world's poorest countries, mainly in Africa and Asia.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn and some of his organization's harshest critics came together to urge the United States and other rich nations not to cut back on aid.

"This is an unusual press conference," said Julia Taft, president of Interaction, which groups 150 U.S.-based

relief agencies. "But these are unusual times. The richest nations of the world are turning their backs on the poorest of the poor."

Tight-fisted Republican lawmakers are poised to slash in half U.S. contributions to IDA — a move that has been roundly criticized by rich and poor alike here.

Mr. Clinton attacked the proposed cuts as shortsighted and said that funding IDA was one of his administration's top priorities, not only because it was the right thing to do but also because it was in America's self-interest.

He argued that a more prosperous world would be a more stable one and said the U.S. budget could be balanced without cutting critical international aid.

"Today's despair breeds

tomorrow's conflict," Mr. Clinton said. "Resolving the funding for dealing with today's despair will save the world and the United States a lot of money and perhaps even precious lives in the future."

Mr. Clinton spent much of his first speech to an IMF/World Bank annual meeting congratulating the international community for coming to the rescue of Mexico, which was on the brink of defaulting on its foreign debts earlier this year.

"In only nine months, with the help of the international community, Mexico has pulled back from the brink of financial disaster," he said. "Mexico is again on the road to stability and growth."

His upbeat remarks echoed those of visiting Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo,

who told U.S. businessmen that his country's economy was on the mend.

"The stage is set for Mexico to become what it can and will be — a high growth economy," Mr. Zedillo said.

The United States spearheaded the \$50 billion rescue of Mexico, but the IMF also played a major role in providing money and advice, despite initial European misgivings.

Mr. Clinton said the international economic system would be better prepared for the next Mexico-style economic crisis, but made clear that further work is needed.

"These next few years are a critical point, an historic turning point," Mr. Clinton said. "If we do our job, the history of the next century will be less bloody than the history of the 20th century."

IMF chief says no country needs to cut aid to balance its budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — No government should cut its aid to poor countries with the excuse that it needs money to balance its budget, the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a slap at the U.S. Congress.

"This is the kind of alibi that world public opinion should reject," said IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

Mr. Camdessus pointed out that governments devote only a small part of their spending to foreign aid. For the United States, it's less than one per cent.

"We should ask ourselves: Where is the peace dividend? Remember, when the Berlin Wall went down we all of us thought... that military expenditures would go dramatically down," Mr. Camdessus said.

It would have been natural to expect money saved from military spending to go for aid, Mr. Camdessus went on. "But I fail to see how much if anything development assistance has benefited from the supposed peace dividend," he said.

President Clinton has asked for \$1.4 billion for the bank's International Development Association

amount can be even higher.

A debate is now in progress on how the U.S. contribution can be brought closer to the pledge, Mr. Wolfensohn said, suggesting that the Clinton administration could make some arrangement involving other items in the federal budget.

A shortfall would put pressure on other countries to make up the difference. But Mr. Wolfensohn said he doubted that would be done, and if it is, he said U.S. companies likely would be barred from any contracts funded by the funds.

The cuts reflect Republican opposition to international lending programmes as well as congressional efforts to balance the budget by 2002.

"There is a variety of things he (Clinton) can do," Mr. Wolfensohn said. "He has to approve the budget as a whole."

Most important, Mr. Wolfensohn said, will be the U.S. role in providing for the loans in the three years that start next July. Mr. Clinton had signalled his strong support for the loan fund's next replenishment, Mr. Wolfensohn added.

Turnover, prices decline at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman stock market dipped sharply this week and stock prices shrank by 1.5 percent as investors sought to switch holdings to primary issues, brokers said. The said the market largely resisted large-scale sales during the week as the relatively low turnover despite good offers for speculators.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said volume for the week ending Thursday was 5.3 million dinars, compared with the previous weeks' 10.3 million dinars.

The report said 2.7 million shares changed hands under 3,121 contracts concluded during the week and the daily average trading for the week was 1.1 million dinars compared with 2.1 million dinars for the previous week.

The official AFM index based on 60 major companies from among the 120 listed in the market closed at 158 points, down 2.4 points or 1.5 percent from the previous week's 160.4 points.

Banks and financial institutions accounted for 2.54 million dinars, or 47.5 per cent of the weekly volume, followed by industrials with a turnover of 1.44 million dinars or 27 percent, the services sector with \$10,000 dinars or 19.2 percent, and insurance stocks with \$50,000 dinars or 10.3 percent.

Services sector shares gained 0.4 percent during the week while commercial banks dipped by 1.9 percent, industrials by 1.2 per cent and insurance by 11 percent.

The week saw shares of 88 companies changing hands, with 11 of them gaining, 59 slipping and 18 remaining stable.

Brokers said investors were seeking to shift holdings to primary stocks issued by several new firms, mostly in the tourism sector, and hence the decline in prices.

"Most buyers resisted large-scale deals," said a broker. "Therefore the volume dipped and those who needed urgent liquidity sold at market offers and this accounted for the dip in prices," added the broker, who, like all AFM dealers, cannot be identified by name under standing market instructions.

However, this week's trend was only temporary since most investors are looking for concrete signs of projects involving local firms emerging at the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman, the broker said.

IMF seen drawing closer to private sector, markets

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was given a mandate this week to strengthen its surveillance of economic policy and performance requiring close contact with financial markets and the private sector.

"Contacts between the fund's staff and the private financial sector will be intensified," the Belgian chairman of the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee, Philippe Maystadt, told AFP.

The aim of the strengthening of the fund's watchdog role is to detect possible weaknesses at an early stage so as to avoid being caught by surprise by sudden crises like the one that hit Mexico last December.

The Interim Committee gave the go-ahead Sunday for the regular provision by governments of precise data on trends in their economies for surveillance purposes.

For the first time, the ministerial panel also asked the fund to take into account "the views of market participants."

Fund staff could learn much from the latter and "there may also be differences of perception between IMF officials and bankers on the situation in a given country," Mr. Maystadt, who is Belgium's deputy premier and finance minister, explained.

"Quite recently, bankers gave me some disquieting information about the longer term viability of the financial

sector in an Asian country, while, in the view of the IMF, this country was carrying out its programme in a perfect way," he added.

According to Mr. Maystadt, IMF staff will contact operators in the market, notably via the Washington-based Institute for International Finance (IIF).

The IIF membership consists of major international banks and finance firms which are among the main players in world financial markets.

They would be the main users of country economic data collected by the IMF, which "is now increasingly demanding concerning the quality and accuracy" of information provided.

The fund will now refine a set of 17 "core" economic and financial data categories for countries having or seeking access to the capital markets, on which financial intermediaries will be kept briefed through an electronic bulletin board.

It will also assist countries

in streamlining their machinery for collection of statistical data and adjusting it to market needs.

But at the same time, the fund will have to be careful not to expose "risk countries" to speculation.

The IMF is also watching the markets for another reason. IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus noted here that the Mexican crisis has demonstrated how strong and sudden pressures can build up in today's globalised markets.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin has repeatedly said in recent months that the fund must be as strong as the markets.

Mr. Maystadt said the IMF is increasingly keeping a watch on the strength of the banking and financial sectors in its member countries.

But Mr. Camdessus also told the IMF and World Bank annual meetings here this week that no country could afford to reject the benefits of the integration of world markets.

Gaidar: Russian economy on right track if communists stay out

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Prominent reformer Yegor Gaidar Thursday issued guarded praise for the government's economic course, but warned that a communist victory in upcoming elections could be more dangerous than many think.

Mr. Gaidar, a leading Russian economist and head of the largest reformist bloc in parliament, has grown increasingly critical of the government for slowing market reforms he championed after the Soviet collapse in 1991.

But on Thursday, he said, "I'm glad that at least in some directions, the government has begun to shift toward more common sense."

The government's financial stabilisation policy has "a definite chance of success," he said, despite several shortcomings.

He also bailed Prime

Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's initiative in removing tax exemptions for some huge Russian industries — but said the prime minister didn't go far enough.

Mr. Gaidar said too many tax benefits remain, particularly for the natural gas monopoly Gazprom, which

(Continued on page 9)

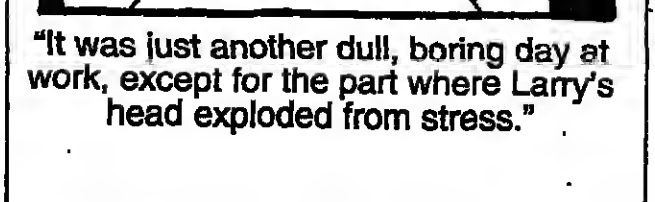
THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chew

ACROSS

- 1 Fashion
- 2 Blind part
- 3 Sharp pain
- 4 Muslim decree
- 5 Lima site
- 6 Cheese
- 7 "Witch" city
- 8 Ripening factor
- 9 French resort
- 10 Penmanship system
- 11 Actor Rip
- 12 Bridge position
- 13 Obliterate
- 14 Head
- 15 College group
- 16 Land unit
- 17 Road or ham end
- 18 Scrap
- 19 Mold
- 20 Italian dramatist, Betti
- 21 Greek philosopher
- 22 Temperate
- 23 Look through
- 24 Ellipse
- 25 Wound slightly
- 26 Light
- 27 Jason's wife
- 28 Concerning
- 29 Additional
- 30 Type of bridge
- 31 Core of a nerve fiber
- 32 Biblical preposition
- 33 Glower
- 34 Catalogue
- 35 Alaskan island
- 36 Term of endearment
- 37 River in England
- 38 Knowledge handed down
- 39 Riches

DOWN

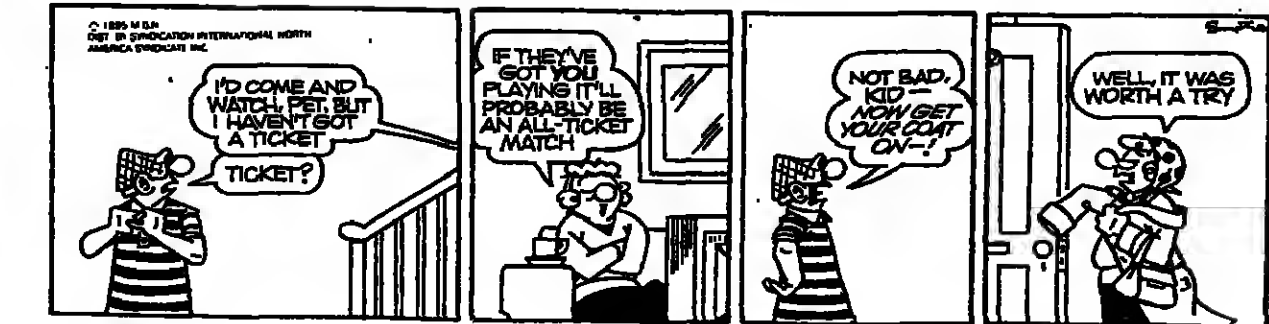
- 1 Feel the loss of
- 2 Don't give
- 3 Gooeylike plant
- 4 Serp, garden
- 5 Masis
- 6 Authentic
- 7 Type of code
- 8 Tina or Ted
- 9 Track and field event
- 10 See you later
- 11 Mother-of-pearl
- 12 Govt. agts.
- 13 Show host
- 14 Com units
- 15 File
- 16 Young girl
- 17 Reverberate
- 18 Graceful horse
- 19 Blessings on
- 20 April 15th?
- 21 "Here to Eternity"
- 22 Friar
- 23 Freudian term
- 24 Sitarist Shankar
- 25 Coup d'
- 26 Money allotment
- 27 Border lake
- 28 Snack
- 29 Nonchalant
- 30 Shallow bells
- 31 Nerve
- 32 Having a rough margin
- 33 "Is Born"
- 34 Orated
- 35 Beer ingredient
- 36 Disassemble
- 37 Garden pest
- 38 "Othello" character
- 39 Spoken
- 40 Socially inept



Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to gain the added goodwill of friends, relatives and neighbors, so get an early start upon such activities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study your financial status carefully today and plan how best to increase your income for the future in the case of a rainy day.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your mind is filled with fine ideas which should be put in motion today so that you can add to your present success and become noticed by those in charge.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get that information you need to become more prosperous in your field of endeavour so that you can become more successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to meet with as many persons as you can. Talking over mutual ideas and aims get you good results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get out early his morning and handle public and career activities which are difficult to handle during the busy coming week.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day today to contact those at a distance and show you want to continue dealing with them in the near future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Decide what you desire later this evening and then talk your plans over with person in business who can be of great assistance.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Endeavour to get advice from a dynamic person who is restless but very successful in coming up with profitable ideas to make new products.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Know how you want your labours to trend and look into new inventions and solutions which will make your career activities easier.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You arise feeling happy if properly attuned to planets today and can have a delightful time with your friends and fellow associates.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Keep rooted to home and real estate affairs today, and improve them considerably and you will gain benefits in the days ahead.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

Chang advances in Seiko Super Tennis



Goran Ivanisevic

TOKYO (AFP) — Michael Chang moved through to the next round of the one million dollar Seiko Super tennis tournament here on Friday but will not have the chance to avenge his loss in last year's final to Goran Ivanisevic who crashed out.

Ivanisevic, who came into the tournament with a fever and was in bed for 10 days before coming to Tokyo, lost his quarter-final match 6-7 (2/7), 6-7 (5/7) to Hendrik Dreekmann of Germany.

Chang was an easy 6-2, 6-0 winner over 9th seed Alexander Volkov of Russia, and now he will take on Henrik Holm of Sweden, who eliminated 14th seed Byron Black of Zimbabwe 6-3, 6-7 (8/10), 6-1.

Meanwhile, up-and-coming Australian teenager Mark Philippoussis continued his giant killing run, beating 4th seed Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 to earn the right to play Dreekmann.

"I was very calm today, because I had nothing to lose. Even if I lose, it's no shame for me," said Dreekmann, ranked 114th. "If he (Ivanisevic) loses against someone who is ranked more than a 100, it's not a shame but it's not too good for him."

"I was just trying to win my service games... that was all. When he was serving well, there were no chances at all. It's up to him. What I did well today was just to stay calm," added the German.

Dreekmann broke Ivanisevic first to take a 5-3 lead in the opening set, and the Croat pulled one back in the

following game, but it was Ivanisevic's only converted break point in the 86-minute match.

Although he hit 16 aces and won 37 out of 48 points on his first serve, Ivanisevic had to save a total of eight break points against him.

The Croat fired a lightning service return winner to take a 3-0 lead in the second set tie-breaker, but after trading mini-breaks twice, he misfired his forehand on his serve to lose the match.

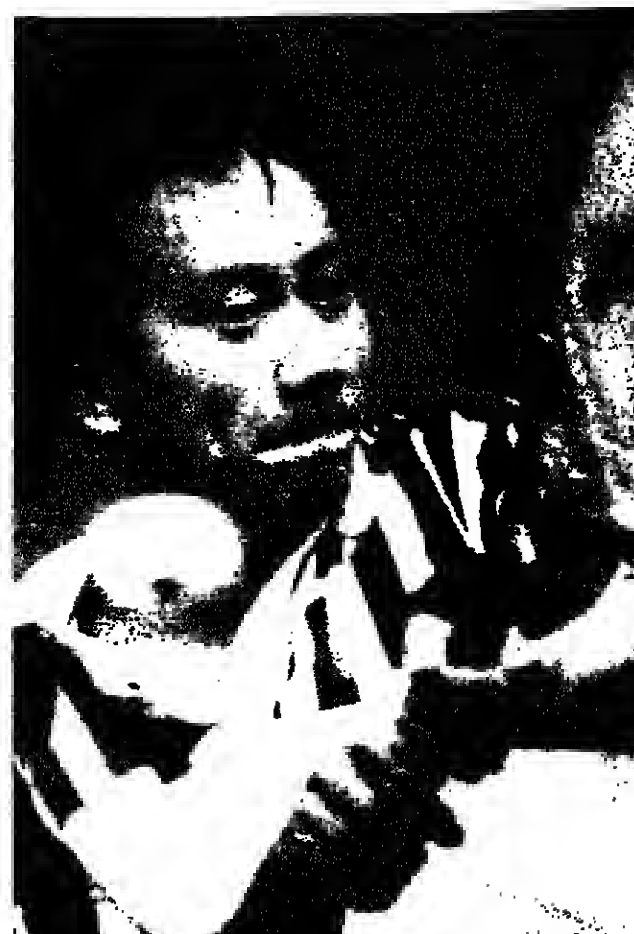
"He deserved to win," said a dejected Ivanisevic, who has not won a title since winning in Tokyo a year ago. "He played so smart, he played against my backhand and moved me round. I had my chances but I couldn't take them."

"I was mixing a lot, hitting a lot of slice, slice, slice... like Sanchez (I don't remember which Sanchez)... I don't know why... I was defensive on my serve, because he just returned and I always hit slice, slice... that's the way I played today," said the second seed.

Philippoussis, who caused a sensation by hitting 44 aces in 15 service games in his second round match in Kuala Lumpur last week, reaching the final, survived a war of power serves against the World number 15 Krajicek.

"Today, it was just a battle of the serves. He was serving huge for the first two sets and I had no chance on his serve," said the 18-year-old from Melbourne.

"But he started missing some first serves in the



Michael Chang

second set tie-breaker and the third set, and I did take my chances — that was the key point.

"I didn't have many aces, but I definitely had a lot of

service winners and I wasn't down a break point at all today. So that's very good. I'm happy about that," said Philippoussis, ranked a career high of 60 this week.

Young Ern hopes to shine in Paris

PARIS (R) — British five-year-old Young Ern, ridden by multiple Irish champion Michael Kinane, could make amends for last year's disappointment in the seven-furlong (1.4-km) Prix de la Forêt at Longchamp on Sunday.

Longchamp will stage another group one event on Sunday, the Grand Critérium, which is reserved exclusively for two-year-old colts and fillies.

The Prix de la Forêt has drawn a less competitive field than last year and could

prove a good occasion for Young Ern to shine after second places in his last three outings, including the Group One Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville.

Last year, the son of Efsio finished a creditable fourth to Bigstone, only to be disqualified and placed last for causing interference.

Other horses coming back for another shot at this race are Nevermeyer, third last time, who is returning after a lay-off, and Mutakddim, who will be to improve on last year's sixth.

IAAF announces 1996 schedule

PARIS (AP) — The world athletic schedule for 1996 features meets on all five continents, including new events to Japan, Australia, Russia, South Africa and India.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) announced the schedule Thursday for its Grand Prix meets, including a pre-Olympic event in Atlanta. It will be presented to the council for final approval in December.

There will be a Grand Prix meet on May 18 in Atlanta at the main Olympic stadium, replacing the New York games.

"The Grand Prix will have a stopover in Atlanta for the inauguration of the Olympic stadium there," said IAAF President Primo Nebiolo. "We will have a very big celebration in regards to the Olympic games."

The top-tier Grand Prix I meets will start as usual in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in May 5, and then move to Japan for a new event in Tokyo on May 12.

The series will also make a new stop in Moscow on June 7. "Russia is one of our most important federations," Nebiolo said.

There will be a break in the schedule between July 12 and Aug. 10 for the Olympics, where the track events will be held from July 27 to Aug. 4.

There will be a total of 40 Grand Prix meetings — 18 AGP I, 12 GP II and 10 IAAF permit meetings as well as the final.

In the second-level Grand Prix II series, a meet in Melbourne, Australia, will open the season Feb. 29. There will be additional events in Johannesburg, South Africa, April 14 and New Delhi, India, April 28.

"All the continents will participate in the Grand Prix," Nebiolo said.

The Grand Prix final will be held in Milan, Italy, Sept. 7. Prize money for the season's overall winner will be increased to \$200,000, while event winners will get \$50,000. In addition, a

\$100,000 bonus will be offered for anyone setting a world record during the final. "We have increased the money for the final, bring it to \$3.4 million," Nebiolo said. "An increase of more than a million dollars over last year."

Nebiolo said that the IAAF is still seeking a major sponsor for the series. The contract with Mobil ended this year.

"This money we are giving is the money we have in our hands now," Nebiolo said. "We are now negotiating to find new partners and we are quite confident to find a good new partner."

The calendar meeting coincided with a seminar of the harmonisation of doping issues within the IAAF. Nebiolo said representatives from 35 national federations and six international federations attended.

"It was almost the first time that we all discussed about these matters and the regulations from so many different countries and confront our ideas and see what could be done and what could not be done," Nebiolo said.

One example of different rules was tackled in the case of salbutamol, an inhalant for asthma that some federations allowed with prescription while others didn't.

Dr. Arne Lundqvist, the president of the IAAF Doping Commission said that the IOC Medical Commission at its last meeting in Atlanta, decided that certain products related to salbutamol, at the request of many federations, will be reclassified.

"It opens the possibility for treating asthmatic athletes without violating the doping rules," Dr. Lundqvist said, adding that the proposal will be made to the IAAF council in December.

Dr. Lundqvist also said that the number of no-notice testing for next year would be increased from 1,200 to 1,500.

He said that 70 per cent of the medalists of the recent World Championships were tested by no-notice testing, most before the world championships.

DIRECTLY FROM THE OWNER



1986, EXCELLENT CONDITION, 2.5 LITER ENGINE, A/C, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, MIRRORS, STEREO, CENTRAL LOCK AND MORE...

FORD MERCURY COUGAR



1988, EXCELLENT CONDITION, 5.0 LITER ENGINE, A/C, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, SEATS, MIRRORS, STEREO, CRUISE CONTROL... ETC. (FULL OPTIONS)

Tel. 619305 - 619306 Fax 619307

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A LEADING COMPANY DEALING WITH FOODSTUFF HAS A VACANCY FOR A SALES REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:-

- GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE.
- 3 YEARS EXPERIENCE.
- MUST OWN A CAR.

APPLICANTS PLEASE SEND C.V. TO: THE GENERAL MANAGER

P.O. BOX: 6141 AMMAN - JORDAN

INVITATION

TO THAILAND TRADE EXHIBITION IN JORDAN AT

FORTE GRAND AMMAN HOTEL

14 - 16 OCTOBER 1995

THE FIRST TIME EVER IN JORDAN

14, 15 October 1995 daily from 10:00 to 18 hours. 16 October 1995 from 10:00 to 13:00 hours

YES! THAILAND TRADE EXHIBITION. DON'T MISS IT

Exhibitors are ready to establish the prominent business with you!

Products ranging from:

Food, Footwear, Artificial Flowers, Electrical Transformers, Printed Textile, Confectionery, Hair Ornaments, Steel and Office Furniture, Light Fittings, Home Textile, Household Items, Ready-Made Garments, Dolls, Auto Spare Parts, Paper products, and more

For Trade Visitors Only

For more information please contact:



Thai Trade Center, P.O. Box 1083, Dubai, U.A.E. Tel: (971-4) 284553 Fax: (971-4) 220934
Royal Thai Consulate General, Jordan, P.O. Box 26, Amman, Jordan. Tel: (962) 622843 Fax: (962) 665321

FOR RENT

Fully furnished penthouse deluxe roof with open terraces overlooking Amman, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large kitchen, large sitting & dining hall with family sitting room & fireplace, telephone line available & car parking. Nice location in Shmeisani. For information please call 678501 after 2 pm.

VILLA FOR RENT

Location / Alia Housing Main Street, 3 Bedrooms, One Master, 2 Bathrooms, Large Living Room, Dining Room & Salons, Servant Room & Bathroom, Very Nice Garden + Garage

For More Information Please Call 617 321

NABIL & HISHAM THEATRE

presents the satirical comedy show "Peace Oh Peace"

IN ENGLISH

Every Saturday, starting October 7, 1995



at the Nabil & Hisham Theatre 1st Circle, Rainbow Street, Jabal Amman. at 8:30 p.m.

For reservations call 625155 or 640155

Lewis letter welcomed by Nebiolo

PARIS (AP) — The head of athletics' world governing body said Thursday that Carl Lewis deserves special treatment in the scheduling of events at next year's Olympics in Atlanta.

International Amateur Athletic Federation President Primo Nebiolo stopped short, however, of saying that the timetable will be changed in order to benefit the eight-time Olympic gold medalist.

"It is normal that sometimes something special should be done for a great athlete, especially a great athlete who has written some of the pages in athletic history," Nebiolo said of Lewis.

"We understand that a great athlete wants to have the most favourable timetable to do his events," Nebiolo added. "For the time being, we don't know what will become of this or what decisions will be taken."

Joe Douglas, manager of Lewis' Santa Monica Track Club, sent a letter to the IAAF this week asking that the Atlanta schedule be altered to that Lewis can compete in the 100 metres, 200 metres and long jump.

Lewis won those three events at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and added a fourth gold in the 400-metre relay. The Atlanta games will be Lewis' fourth and final Olympics.

"The only thing I can say is that we are very satisfied that Mr. Lewis is determined in continuing on with the sport and he wants to take part in a great number of events," Nebiolo said. "He has already given much to athletes in the sport."

The scheduling issue will

be taken up at the IAAF Council meeting in Monte Carlo in December.

Lewis wants to be given the same scheduling consideration as fellow American sprinter Michael Johnson.

Johnson is asking the IAAF to rearrange the Atlanta timetable to help him try for an unprecedented gold-medal sweep in the 200 and 400 metres.

Johnson, who won those two events at this summer's World Championships in Göteborg, Sweden, wants the two events separated so

that the 400 is completed before beginning the 200.

"If the precedent of scheduling changes is in fact being set, I respectfully request that Carl Lewis' opportunity to compete in all of his events be taken into consideration," Douglas said in the letter made public Tuesday by the IAAF.

"As the schedule stands now, the 200 metres and long jump are to take place simultaneously. I would request that the 100 metres, 200 metres and long jump be separated."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI ©1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.			
A WHIT TOO MUCH			
North-South vulnerable. South deals.		Two-no-trump opening bids. North's raise to four no trump was quantitative and South, Bob Hamman of Dallas, went on to slam on the strength of the excellent five-card suit. East's double would have been perfect for Dr. Fisher's idea.	
NORTH	WEST	EAST	SOUTH
♠ J75	♠ A632	♠ AAK94	♠ QJ
♥ A102	♥ Q1052	♥ J73	♥ Q6
♦ Q1052	♦ A83	♦ J974	♦ A6
		♣ 84	♣ KJ92
The bidding:		After much thought West elected to lead the nine of diamonds. Declarer won in hand with the king, cashed the king and queen of hearts and saw of diamonds, then ran off five club tricks, reducing the hand to this position:	
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
♠ A	♠ A	♠ A	♠ A
♥ A	♥ A	♥ A	♥ A
♦ A	♦ A	♦ A	♦ A
♣ A	♣ A	♣ A	♣ A
Opening lead: Nine of 0		Some years ago Dr. John Fisher of Dallas suggested that, when the bidding went one no trump - three no trump, a double by the defender not on lead requested partner to attack with a spade. This hand, from a rubber bridge game at New York's Regency White Club, makes a sound argument for extending the principle to contracts of six no trump where no suit has been bid.	
North-South were employing a range of 21-22 (or a good 20) for		A heart to the ace ruined East. Forced to hold two diamonds, East tried the bluff of discarding the ace of spades. But Hamman coolly led a spade, and East was forced to lead away from the jack of diamonds into dummy's Q10 tenace.	

TODAY AT

CINEMA PHILADELPHIA

Robert Redford, Demi Moore & Woody Harrelson
Indecent Proposal
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA PLAZA

Sandra Bullock & Bill Pullman
in
While You Were Sleeping
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Adel Inam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness (Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:45
CONCORD "2"
Arnold Schwarzenegger...in
Conan The Barbarian
Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15

AMMOUN THEATRE

MUSA HIJAZIN
"Sumaa"
in
Hi Citizen
daily at 8:30 p.m.
Written & directed by
Mohammad Shawaqfeh

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre

Presents
"Peace Oh Peace"
in English every Saturday
Show starts at 8:30 p.m.
For reservation call 625155

Anti-nuclear physicist wins Nobel Peace Prize

Award seen as protest against French, Chinese nuclear tests

OSLO (Agencies) — Sending a message of protest against nuclear weapons testing, a Nobel committee awarded its 1995 peace prize Friday to British physicist Joseph Rotblat and the group he helped found to rid the world of atomic arms.

The committee cited the 86-year-old Rotblat and the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs for their efforts to "diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and in the longer run to eliminate such arms."

The conferees were founded in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, and are based in London. They have worked to get scientists to "take responsibility for their intervention," out of a "desire to see all nuclear arms destroyed and, ultimately, in a vision of other solutions to international disputes than war," the Nobel citation read.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the \$1 million prize to Mr. Rotblat and his group to mark 50 years since the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan.

In halting the winners, the Nobel Prize Committee chairman condemned countries such as France and China for continuing to test nuclear weapons.

"One of the reasons for the prize is a sort of protest against testing of nuclear weapons and nuclear arms in general," committee chairman Francis Sejersted told reporters.

"This is also a message to all of the world's nuclear powers," he said. "Of course it's more current this year, among things, because of the



Joseph Rotblat

new (French) nuclear tests in the Pacific.

French President Jacques Chirac this year resumed nuclear tests in the South Pacific despite international condemnation. Beijing continues to test nuclear weapons in western China, ignoring Western protests.

The peace prize was the second Nobel this year to send a direct political message. On Wednesday, a Dutchman and two Americans won the chemistry prize for alerting the world about ozone depletion.

The Polish-born Rotblat, a nuclear physicist and professor emeritus of physics at the University of London, is president of the Pugwash movement and the most important figure in the conference's work, the citation said.

He was the only scientist to resign from the Manhattan project that developed the first atomic bomb when it became clear Germany was not developing a nuclear weapon.

In 1988, the year he became president of the conference, Mr. Rotblat wrote in the London newspaper Independent that "three major problems facing the human race (are) risk of nuclear war, degradation of the environment and global poverty."

Forty years ago, Mr. Rotblat and 10 other scientists issued a manifesto declaring that researchers must take responsibility for their creations, such as the atomic bomb.

"The manifesto laid to the foundation for the Pugwash conference," the citation said.

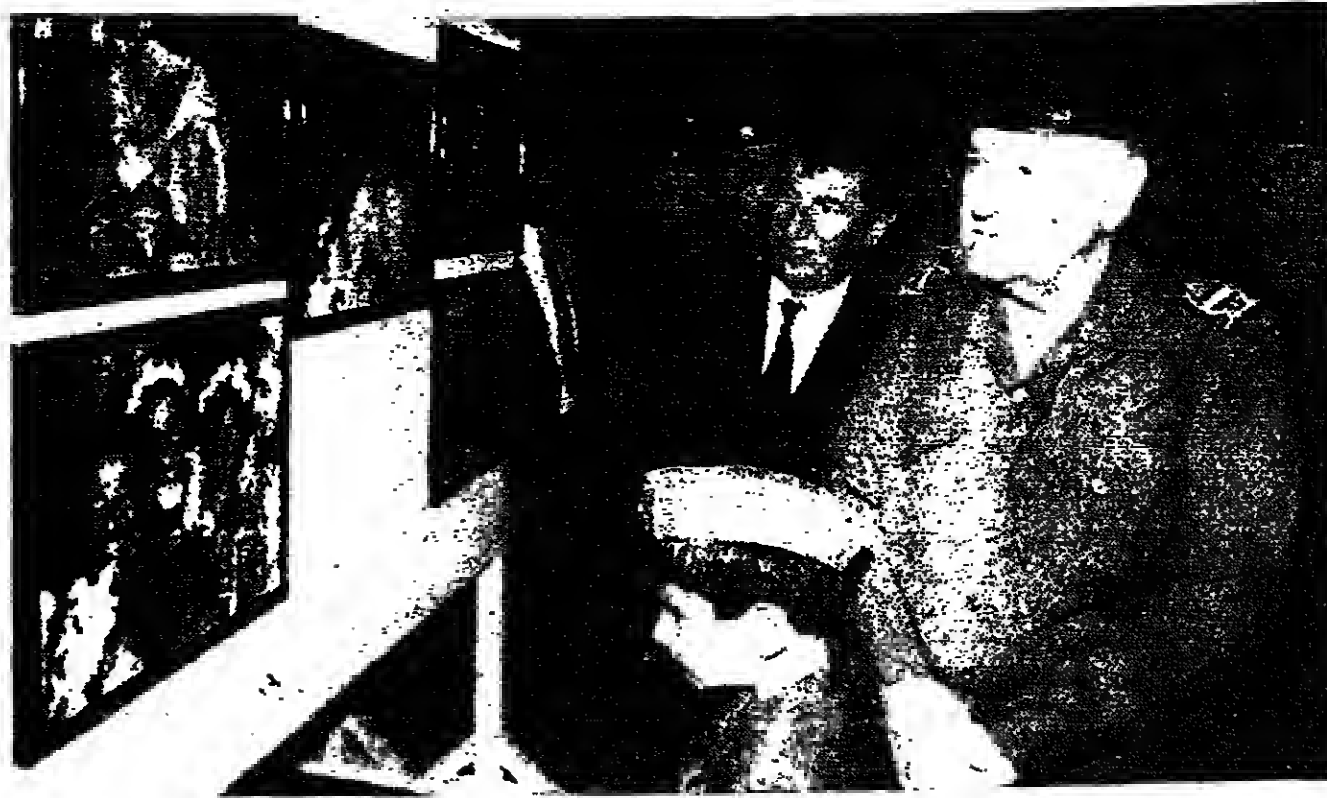
"The conferences... have underlined the catastrophic consequences of the use of new weapons," the citation said. "They have brought together scientists and decision-makers to collaborate across political divides on constructive proposals for reducing the nuclear threat."

The laureate, now a British citizen, told Reuters in London: "I am glad that our work has received official recognition and I hope that it will help other scientists recognise their social responsibility."

He added: "I hope it is a message not only to the French but to the Chinese as well."

The French government congratulated Rotblat but reaffirmed its commitment to its nuclear testing programme.

"We congratulate the winners" of the 1995, foreign ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said in Paris. "France wants disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, (to go ahead) in security, because it is security which allows disarmament," he added.



Iraqi Vice-President Taha Moheiddin Marouf (right) on Thursday visits an exhibition of photographs of President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad. The exhibition is as part of a government campaign ahead of Sunday's referendum on President Saddam (AFP photo)

Iraq feverish for referendum

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Chants of "yes, yes Saddam Hussein" filled the streets here Friday as millions of Iraqis prepared to vote in the country's first presidential referendum.

Thousands marched in the Iraqi capital and bands played to the glory of President Saddam. Portraits of the Iraqi president were hung in stores, and slogans praising the "father and soul" of the country covered walls throughout the city.

Official newspapers devoted their front pages to Sunday's election, describing at length why Iraq's 7.5 million voters should support President Saddam — the only name on the ballot.

Officials were also mobilising to handle thousands of foreign officials and journalists invited to cover the referendum to show what Baghdad says is the true will of the Iraqi people.

The ballot, which includes President Saddam's picture, asks: "Do you approve of Saddam Hussein as president of the republic?"

Underneath is the line "make a cross on the answer of your choice, with two boxes indicating 'yes' or 'no'."

The voter's name is not mentioned and there is no identification number on the ballot. Voting is not obligatory and no penalties apply to those who do not participate, officials said.

Special programmes dedicated to President Saddam dominated the television, with a musical backdrop swaying from Iraqi pop to European classics to traditional Arab songs.

Hundreds of expatriate Egyptian workers also rallied for President Saddam in central Baghdad Friday. Waving branches cut off trees and carrying poster portraits of the Iraqi leader, they chanted "One Arab Nation" and marched to pipes and drums along the banks of the Tigris River.

It will be the first chance ordinary Iraqis have had to vote for or against a leader, at least since the military coup that toppled the monarchy in 1958 and arguably since civilisation was born in Mesopotamia more than 5,000 years ago.

Iraqi television has been running hours of interviews with people full of praises for President Saddam, who has been elevated to the status of sole guarantor of the country's survival.

"Yes to Saddam Hussein," the embodiment of confidence in a radiant future," said a headline in Al Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party.

"When we pay homage to Saddam, we pay homage to the honour of Iraq," said a slogan above the masthead. But simultaneously newspapers printed articles explaining the referendum as the landmark in a transformation from "revolutionary legitimacy" to constitutional government.

A booklet published by the Ministry of Information and Culture, said President Saddam and the Baath Party had

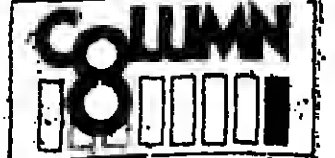
a longstanding commitment to constitutional government but whenever they tried to introduce it, foreign enemies thwarted them.

First there was the eight-year war between Iraq and Iran, then the military campaign against Iraqi forces in 1991, it said. It did not mention the invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

"Iraq will continue the piecemeal implementation of its own perspective, not the American," the booklet concluded.

But diplomats have explained the referendum as largely a response to the defection in August of two of President Saddam's sons-in-law, who fled to Jordan with President Saddam's daughters.

The defections were a clear sign of cracks in the Iraqi leadership and of President Saddam's dependence on an increasingly narrow circle of advisers.



Russia drops criminal case against puppet show

MOSCOW (R) — Russian legal authorities said they had halted criminal proceedings against the satirical Kukly Puppet Show which pokes fun at President Boris Yeltsin and other political figures. Temporary Prosecutor-General Oleg Gavdanov said the case initiated by his predecessor Aleksei Ilyushenko, who was sacked Sunday, had been dropped but gave no details. "We have dropped the case against Kukly," he told a news conference, declining any further comment. In a case launched last July, Kukly was accused of denigrating Mr. Yeltsin and senior government officials by portraying them as impoverished tramps living in a hovel on Russia's minimum wage of 44,700 rubles (\$10) a month. Kukly, or "Dolls," appears weekly on the independent NTV channel which has often been at odds with the government for its often critical coverage of events, including the Russian military campaign in Chechnya.

Selena's killing was accident — defence

HOUSTON (R) — Defence attorneys said the woman accused of murdering U.S. music star Selena shot her accidentally in a dispute provoked by the singer's tyrannical father.

But prosecutor Carlos Valdez said the young star was murdered in a "senseless, cowardly act of violence" by the defendant Yolanda Saldivar, who was desperate after she was caught embezzling money from the Selena Fan Club she founded. "This is a simple case of murder. That's what we intend to prove," Mr. Valdez said after opening arguments in the trial of Ms. Saldivar, who is accused of shooting dead Selena Quintanilla Perez on March 31 in a motel. Selena, 23, was the top female star in Tejano, a hybrid music style hugely popular along the U.S.-Mexico border. An album released last June that included her first songs in English was briefly the top-selling U.S. record. Defence attorney Douglas Tinker told the jury Ms. Saldivar became "almost like a sister" to Selena after she started the singer's first fan club in 1991. But he said the relationship threatened Selena's father, Abraham Quintanilla, whom he painted as intent on controlling his daughter and her career. Mr. Tinker said Mr. Quintanilla tried to drive a wedge between the two by accusing Ms. Saldivar of stealing money from the fan club. But Mr. Tinker said Ms. Saldivar's friendship meant to so much to the singer she hired her to manage her clothing boutiques and continued dealing with her despite her father's objections. However, Selena's widower Chris Perez told the jury the singer had discovered financial irregularities in the clothing businesses and wanted to get rid of her.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indian Muslim leaders visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Shabir Naqshabandi, a noted Muslim leader of India and a prominent journalist, and Sayed Viquddin, president of Indo-Arab League Thursday arrived from Delhi along with 7-member delegation which includes prominent Ulemas and Muslim scholars from different parts of India on a goodwill mission. Mr. Naqshabandi expressed deep appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein for playing a significant role to solve the long-pending Palestinian issue. He also said the Muslims of India extend support for a peaceful settlement to the Bosnian conflict. Mr. Naqshabandi and his delegation were transiting to Iraq and will return to Jordan Oct. 19. They are hoping to meet with King Hussein to convey the good wishes of the president of India, Shankar Dayal Sharma, and people of India to the King and people of Jordan. Mr. Naqshabandi also said he hoped that following this goodwill mission to Jordan relations between Jordan and India will be further strengthened, and he said the people of India were eager to receive King Hussein in "the historic country of India."

Palestinian communists to stand in elections

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The small Palestinian communist party announced Friday it would stand against Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in elections due next year. "We will go to the elections. We are in the middle of preparing for them," Suleiman Najjab, a member of the politburo of the Palestine People's Party, told AFP in Ramallah. "We are showing a third way, for we are not opposed to the negotiations themselves (with Israel) but the way in which they have been conducted," he added. Mr. Najjab is one of Mr. Arafat's opponents within the PLO's Executive Committee. "We feel we deserve better and we can win more" in the negotiations with Israel on Palestinian autonomy. The party would publish a manifesto calling for greater democracy, a respect of human rights and the rule of law. It also wanted to promote "an improvement in the economic and social situation of the Palestinian people," he added.

Closure of W. Bank, Gaza increases prices in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prices of fruits and vegetables have risen by an average of 50 per cent over the past month as a result of the closure Israel imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Agriculture Ministry said Friday. The closure bars tens of thousands of Palestinian labourers from jobs in Israel, including many who work in agriculture, and many crops remain unpicked. The increases were highest for cucumbers and tomatoes which doubled in price, the Agriculture Ministry said. Prices could drop by 30 per cent if the closure was lifted. Gaza has been sealed since Sept. 20 and the West Bank since Sept. 27. Israel said it imposed the travel ban in response to warnings that militants planned to carry out suicide attacks in Israel. The closure was to be lifted Tuesday.

3 Pakistanis beheaded in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Three Pakistanis convicted of drug trafficking were beheaded Friday in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, the Interior Ministry said. The executions raised to 187 the number of beheadings in Saudi Arabia this year, already higher than any previous year. Most of those beheaded this year were Asians and Africans who had been convicted of drug offences.

Saudis protest Thai-designed dress

BANGKOK (AP) — The Saudi Arabian embassy has protested to the Thai government that a local fashion magazine printed a picture of a dress with "God" written in Arabic script in its design, embassy officials said Thursday. The embassy asked the government to take strong action against the magazine, named Prae, and the shop selling the dress.

Lebanese protest plans to extend Hrawi term

BEIRUT (R) — More than 120 Lebanese intellectuals protested on Friday against plans to extend the term of President Elias Hrawi without holding an election due under the constitution.

In a letter to parliamentary deputies they said plans for parliament to amend the constitution next week to allow Mr. Hrawi's six-year term to be extended for three years were "stabbing democracy in Lebanon in the back."

The letter demanded that parliament leave untouched the constitution, which makes no provision for an extension of the president's term and bars the incumbent from reelection.

"The choice is between holding elections that restore to the nation its right to free choice... or stabbing democracy in the back and treating the Lebanese as an immature nation under custodianship," the intellectuals said.

It was signed by 128 university professors, writers, journalists, doctors and trade unionists and was addressed to each of the 128 members of parliament. Copies of the letter were distributed to the press.

Arafat increases Hamas contacts

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat stepped up contacts on Friday with Hamas in an effort to turn the militant group's opposition to a peace deal with Israel into political channels and away from violence.

PLO official Tayeb Abdul Rahim told reporters that a number of Hamas representatives from the West Bank were to meet Mr. Arafat in Gaza on Friday.

"A delegation from the West Bank is going to meet the president in the next hour," Mr. Abdul Rahim told reporters.

Another official, who spoke on condition he not be named, confirmed Mr. Arafat had met overnight with four Hamas men who had held consultations with leaders of the group in Sudan earlier this week.

The official called the overnight meeting "successful and comfortable" but he gave no details.

Mr. Arafat himself told reporters: "Inshallah, there will be good beginnings. The delegation from Khartoum had positive and constructive meetings there for the interests of this people and the Arab and Islamic nations."

Hamas has led opposition to the PLO's peace deal with Israel. Its militants have killed scores of Israelis in suicide attacks.

But there have been signs the group was searching for accommodation with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) running self-rule areas set up under the peace accord.

Mr. Arafat, under Israeli pressure, has cracked down hard this year on Hamas supporters in areas under his control.

Hamas said Friday that it has not yet decided whether to stop attacks on Israel. The group was responding to reports that it had already made a pledge to Mr. Arafat that it would refrain from violence.

"Hamas has not committed itself up to now to stopping military activities against the Zionists," said a Hamas leaflet distributed in the Gaza Strip.

However, the tone of the leaflet was conciliatory. Hamas said it would "respond positively to all good calls and sincere efforts aimed at unifying the ranks of the Palestinian people."

Hamas and PNA officials

(Continued on page 7)

Court sentences 4 in Solingen arson

DUESSELDORF, Germany (R) — A court in the German city of Duesseldorf jailed four young men on Friday for the racist murder of five Turkish women and girls in the town of Solingen in 1993 which sparked international outrage.

Presiding Judge Wolfgang Steffen sentenced 25-year-old Markus Gartmann to 15 years for the arson attack and gave 10-year sentences to Felix Koehn, 18, Christian Reher, 19 and Christian Buchholz, 22, who were all tried as juveniles.

The attack was the worst in a three-year wave of racist and neo-Nazi violence which followed unification in 1990, and prompted a storm of protests inside and outside Germany.

The announcement brought uproar from the accused and their families in the courtroom. "I'm going to kill myself today. There won't be any appeal," Mr. Koehn yelled.

His father began to weep and ran out of the chamber. Other members of the families of the accused in the public gallery shouted to Judge Steffen: "You swine."

The 1993 attack sparked several days of riots by Turks in Solingen, an industrial town in Western Germany.

and calls for improvements in what many regard as the second-class status of foreigners living in Germany.

The victims were all members of the same family — Saime Genc, aged 4, Hulya Jenc, 9, Gulistan Ozturk, 12, Hatice Genc, 18 and Gursun Ince, 27.

The verdict came at the end of a tortuous 18-month trial which was plagued by conflicting confessions from two of the defendants and by reports of investigators' blunders.

Reher, a schoolboy of 16 at the time of the attack, had admitted carrying out the deed, while Buchholz and Koehn maintained they were innocent. They were all given the maximum sentences for juveniles.

Gartmann made a signed confession incriminating all four, but then withdrew it. Prosecutors insisted the confession was accurate and demanded a life sentence for Gartmann. But they had to do without prima facie evidence after police bungling which included failing to take samples from the scene of the fire.

Judge Steffen told the court there was no serious doubt that all four men had been involved in the attack.

Ciller faces tough choices ahead of crucial vote

ANKARA (Agencies) — A former minister resigned from Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's party on Friday, adding to an open revolt and tightening the screws on her minority government ahead of a weekend confidence vote.

Parliament officials said Ersin Farayali, a former energy minister, quit Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) to join five other ex-DYP deputies opposing her bid to win a vote of confidence on Sunday. One deputy resigned last week, four more on Thursday.

Mr. Farayali is from the anti-Ciller camp of the party — mostly supporters of former DYP leader and now President Suleyman Demirel — that has been working

hard to get rid of their tough-talking leader, Turkey's first woman prime minister.

Ms. Ciller's vote of confidence is already in jeopardy from a three-week public sector workers' strike that her backers want resolved before they cast their votes.

Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Democratic Left Party (DSP), has issued what he termed a "final warning" to Ms. Ciller, calling for a swift and just resolution to the strike.

Mr. Farayali's resignation reduces the DYP to 176 deputies. Ms. Ciller must secure a simple majority of those voting out of the 428 deputies in parliament. As well as Mr. Ecevit's DSP of 10 MPs, a far-right nationalist party of 17 deputies has pledged sup-

port if she resolves the strike. Turkey's biggest for decades.

Ms. Ciller also hopes for support from independents. Ms. Ciller, still struggling to control a majority in the Turkish parliament after her coalition collapsed last month, finds herself in the uncomfortable position of having to please both left and right, trying to resolve the month-long wage dispute at the same time as securing a majority in Sunday's vote.

Following the breakdown of the coalition between her DYP and the People's Republican Party (CHP), Ms. Ciller was forced to turn to the right to win the backing of parliament.

Ismail Kose, a DYP deputy chairman, said the six affected deputies could still

return to the fold before Sunday.

"We have a lot of time until Sunday," Anatolian news agency quoted him as telling reporters. "As one who knows these colleagues well, I believe common sense will prevail."

The labour confederation of Turki-IS has been lobbying MPs to oppose Ms. Ciller in Sunday's vote, and has rebuffed the latest government offer, which Ankara raised late on Thursday after saying it could not afford to budget.

Anatolian news agency said Turki-IS was standing by its pay demands, which call for a total 70 trillion lira (\$1.4 billion) payment from state coffers for around 650,000 public workers.

Turki-IS officials say they believe Ms. Ciller will be forced to approach them now that the vote looks increasingly in doubt.

Anatolian said Ms. Ciller's ministers had offered a 16 per cent raise to the workers for the next six months, and 16 per cent for the six months after that — a total 57 trillion (\$1.14 billion).

About 350,000 workers have joined the strike, which began on Sept. 20 over an initial government pay rise offer of 5.4 per cent for 1995. Ports, sugar mills and paper mills stand idle, railways have been disrupted and wheat and sugar production are threatened in the strike, which trade officials say is losing "a country over \$10 million a day in exports."

Motorist foils film robbery

DUBLIN (R) — A Dublin driver blocked the escape of a robber who had shot a security guard — only to find he had stumbled into the making of a film. The civic-minded driver reversed his car into the path of a motorcycle on which the robber and his driver were making their escape, knocking both of them down. The men "seemed stunned and bewildered," the Irish Times reported.